

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting NOTES**  
**Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

**Attending:** Fr. Chen, Marcia Yates (Vice Chair), Jack Yates, Kate Mason (Notes)

**NOTES:**

**Meeting began 7:12 pm**

**Approval of Minutes:**

We did not have a quorum at the meeting. Approval of the December PPC minutes is deferred to the February PPC Meeting

**Discussion: Review of recent events and programs:** What went well, what could be improved

- Advent Programs: Evening Prayer on December 11 and December 18  
Both programs were well received with an estimate of 20 people at the December 11 Prayer session and many more at the December 18 Session including confirmation students.  
*Future suggestion:* Have a microphone for the presenter so attendees can hear clearly
- Christmas Eve Masses at 5, 7 and 9 pm on Christmas Eve with a musical prelude by the adult choir at 8:30 pm)  
Attendance at the 5 pm Mass in the church was crowded but not overly so. Fr. Chen will check with Fr. Spicer to see how many were in attendance at the 5 pm in O'Connell Hall.  
Attendance at the 7 pm Mass was similar to a regular Sunday Mass.  
The 8:30 pm prelude and the 9 pm Mass was well-attended and well-received.  
*Future suggestions:*
  - Enhance the role of the pastoral volunteers at the 5 pm Masses to include greeting and directing people to O'Connell Hall and usher to seats in the church.
  - Bring back singing Christmas Carols at CareOne once during the Advent season.
- Christmas Day Masses at 7:30 and 10:30 am (with choir)  
Both Masses on Christmas had a good crowd.
- New Year's Day Masses at 7 am, 9 am and 7:30 pm (with choir)  
The 7 am Mass had a good number of people but the other two Masses had fewer than last year. The speculation is the cold weather, icy roads and the snow squall in the morning might have had an impact on attendance.
- Lessons and Carols with the Platters, Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 pm (with a potluck dinner beginning at 5:30 pm in O'Connell Hall)  
The PotLuck dinner brought many people together with a large variety of foods and good conversation.  
The Platters in the church led a beautiful service with a nice-sized crowd attending. It was recorded this year and is available on the parish website for viewing.  
*Future suggestions:* Spread the word to the greater Sharon area as well as beyond Sharon; share parts of the recorded music from this year when promoting it for 2027 perhaps at coffee hours. Describe what "Lessons and Carols" are and use a lighter background on the flyer.

**Upcoming Events and other New Business:**

- New floor and paint in O'Connell Hall: plans re drapery and sound system
  - The walls in O'Connell Hall were painted by Gary before the new floor was laid by a contractor. The planning of the timing for installing the floor, its color and the new chair rack was completed with a small group of parishioners and staff.
  - Lynn is ordering new sound-absorbing and light-filtering drapes for the windows. Feedback from parishioners for the changes have been positive.
- Temporary suspension of distribution of the cup during Mass for public health reasons? Yes, the attendees at the meeting agreed that suspending the cup on a temporary basis is a good idea. Fr. Chen suggested that this would last until around Easter.

- Winter Sowing Activity is sponsored by the Catholic Social Teaching team from 2-4 pm on Sunday, January 11. Ellen Grund will run the activity. Jack recommended making sure there is an announcement at the Masses over the weekend

### **Commission/Council Reports:**

#### **Parish Finance Council** - Julie Morrison, Fr. John

Although Julie Morrison was not at the meeting, she sent a report with three key points:

- The 2025 year-to-date numbers are pending and will be available at the February PPC meeting.
- The Grand Annual Campaign is at \$100K of the goal of \$130K. Reminders are in the bulletin and read from the pulpit.
- The 2026 Catholic Appeal Campaign from the Archdiocese kicks off in February.

#### Update on status of Facilities Projects - Marcia Yates, Fr. John

- The Parish Office sign is being made and should be ready in the next week. Jose Vasquez will install the sign when the ground thaws.
- The repair of the stairs from Cottage Street to the rectory is next with a friend of Fr. Chen offering his help.

#### **Christian Services Commission** - Kate Mason Next meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 13 via Zoom.

- The Evelyn House Christmas Party was a success with many volunteers and generous gifts from parishioners for the residents. Mary Ann LaHive and Kate Mason will meet with the house manager for a feedback session in the next week on how things went and what can be improved.
- The coloring of Christmas Cards and signing of Holiday Cards at coffee hours and with Faith Formation classes was successful. The next Card Crafting Fair is planned for March 15.
- We will be planning Souper Bowl Sunday Collection for the weekend of Feb 7-8, 2026.

#### **Faith Formation Commission** - Andrea Mitchell, Tom Lucci, Monica LaFond.

Next meeting at 7:30 pm on Wed., Jan. 28 to plan upcoming events with dates TBD:

- Continue the Conversation with Fr. Clooney
- Catholicism 101 programs on Anointing of the Sick and Sacramental Marriage

#### **Liturgy Commission** - Monica LaFond, Fr. John. Next meeting at 12 pm on Sunday, Jan. 11 to plan Lenten programs.

#### **Radical Hospitality Commission** - Kate Mason, Silvia Dudziak, Monica LaFond.

Next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 pm to plan a spring Welcome event (exact nature TBD).

#### **Catholic Social Teaching Team** - Jack Yates, Monica LaFond. Next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 7 pm (to plan possible documentary screening).

**Service** - Monica LaFond. Upcoming service activities include an evening Bagged Lunch Brigade especially for teens (but open to everyone) from 5-7 pm on Friday, January 16.

**Youth Commission** - Ethan Scarfo was unavailable to attend.

#### **Next Meeting:**

#### **Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 pm (6:45 for refreshments)**

Vice Chair - Julie Morrison

Minutes - Tom Lucci

Refreshments - Jack Yates

Opening Prayer - Mary Tracey-Walsh

Closing Prayer - Silvia Dudziak

**Meeting concluded 8:07 pm**