

Church of Saint Patrick
Parish Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Members Present: Pat Jepsen, Carla Bystricky, Lauren Foote, Geno Avenoso, Richard Braam, Tommy Gleifert, Luke Watson, Susan Miller, Patricia McLaughlin. Via Zoom: Bev Montresor, Dave O’Leary, David Edwards, Carolyn Rock

Pastor Deacon and Staff in Attendance: Pastor, Fr. Matt Gworek, Deacon Bob Barry, Eileen Dignazio

Knights of Columbus Liaison: Michael Blum

Absent: Fr. Josh Wilbur, Curtis Stella, Geno Tilley, Lily Holthoff, Alexander Keuler, Bob Galante

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 pm

Opening Prayer: Fr. Matt

Fr. Matt opened and chaired today’s meeting with a warm welcome to our two new council members, Pat McLaughlin, Geno Avenoso, and Bob Galante. He also thanked those members whose terms are now completed and will be leaving the council: Pat Jepsen, Susan Chase, David Edwards, Susan Miller, James Dusza and Richard Braam.

Pastor’s Update:

We enjoyed a successful and blessed Christmas Vigil Mass. There were good crowds and with the new addition completed it turned out better than last year’s services. He is encouraged that since Ash Wednesday, more people have been returning to Mass.

Officer Appointments:

Discussion about the need to fill four open positions in the council. The following members were nominated and were approved:

- Chairperson – Carla Bystricky
- Vice Chairperson – Bob Barry
- Recording Secretary – Jacqueline Pelland, with assistance from Lauren Foote
- Ministry Head Coordinator – Carolyn Rock and Lauren Foote

Church Ministries:

Faith Formation (Eileen Dignazio):

- Religious Education:
 - Eileen explained that enrollment is ongoing and at this point there are approximately 475 children enrolled in the combined St. Mary-St. Patrick from pre-school to Grade 10.

- Sacraments 2: Parent/child workshop took place at St. Mary's where there was a good amount of parent participation.
- The Sacraments 2 group of children's first Sacrament of Reconciliation was received at St. Mary's on January 24 and those at St. Patrick's will be held on Saturday, January 28.
- Sacraments 2 Rite of Enrollment – February 5th at St. Patrick's Church.
- There will be make-up classes for Sac. 2 and older children to receive Reconciliation during the Wednesday Holy Hour.
- RCIA:
 - Meets weekly on Sundays at 10:30 Mass. There are currently 11 candidates, of which 5 are children.
 - Sign-up for the Rite of Election and commitment to the Church and Scrutinies to be celebrated during Lent.
- Lent:
 - Eileen discussed that she is working with parishioners from St. Mary's to combine the two parishes for our Lenten Program.
 - Friday evening soup and bread and Stations will alternate between the two churches.
- Confirmation: To be held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on March 26, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

Pro-Life Ministry (Jacqueline Pelland):

- Jacquie gave an overview of the recent past and future Pro-Life Ministry Activities
 - National March for Life Washington DC – Jan. 20th
 - Knights of Columbus #20 Council Silver Rose Program – Dec. 12th
 - End of Life Program – Jan. 8th
 - CT March for Life – March 22
 - Lent Corporal Works of Mercy – Prolife Ministry collection March 31st.
- Details on each of the points above are attached to meeting minutes.

Hospitality Committee (Bev Montresor):

- Bev discussed the question as to whether to continue “Coffee and” since the K of C Pancake Breakfast is now a monthly event. Many members thought “Coffee and” should continue as it is a welcoming gathering of parishioners and should go along with the pancake breakfast which is a hit.
- Susan suggested a summer movie series for families to possibly take place on our north lawn. Many agreed that this would be a good community builder. Movies for a donation of a non-perishable food item was another idea.

- A “Paint night” was also suggested as another community event.

Other Topics:

- **Transition Committee (St. Mary and St. Patrick)**

Carolyn questioned the status of the new Transition Committee for the merging of the two parishes. Fr. Matt explained that establishing the group is still in the works but wants this put together as soon as possible. Many have volunteered. There will be a small core group with assistance from a larger contingent to help bring the two parishes together to accomplish a smooth transition.

- **Music**

Fr. Matt met with Jim Lawrence to discuss the combining and crossover of music resources for both churches.

- **Sunday Mass and Church Building**

- Carla brought up the matter of tight space causing congestion for receiving Communion before the Altar. Suggestion to remove pews across from side entrance door to allow for two areas of Communion where parishioners can still walk towards the altar but can receive halfway where two Eucharistic Ministers can stand and relieve congestion in the front of the Altar. However, this doesn't address the need for an area for wheelchairs and walkers.
- Also discussed was the problem of the Main Door downstairs not having an automatic button for those with disabilities. This will need to be addressed when the parish has funding for the equipment necessary.
- Deacon Bob and Richard discussed the need to finalize and establish an Usher Ministry including greeters and envelope collectors at each Mass. They stressed the importance of formalizing this ministry.
- A leak was discovered between the old and new roofing causing water to enter the building, however, this problem has been temporarily corrected and is being looked into further for permanent solution.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Matt

Meeting ended: 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: To be determined by Pastor and new Chairperson

Respectfully submitted: Jacqueline Pelland