

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

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September 13, 2021

**Opening:** Dan Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. said the prayer of Mother Theresa.

**Roll Call:** Those present were Father Jeff Rimelspach, Jan Childers, James Duckro, Ed Gabel (Men's Club), Carla Manahan, Dan Martin, Larry Pishitelli, Mary Smith, Joe Wickham; Excused: Rosa Jankowski, Lucienne Jawo, Mark Phillips, Elaine Prochak.

**Review and Discussion of the May 3, 2021 Council Minutes:** Joe Wickham moved that the minutes be accepted; motion was seconded by James Duckro; passed unanimously.

**New business:** No new business except to remind all groups that any upcoming events must be placed on the Church calendar through our church secretary Barb. Anyone interested in volunteering their time at this year's St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church Italian Festival, please visit the website at <http://www.columbusitalianfestival.com/volunteering>

## **Committee Reports:**

**Administration, Grounds & Facilities:** Mark Phillips submitted a report of Project Review – There have been no new projects undertaken at the church grounds over the last couple months other than a cooler was repaired by Mike McDonald and freon was added.

**Parish Life:** Jan Childers stated Parish Life is assisting with the fall Parish Appreciation/Volunteer Dinner which will be held October 16, 2021, following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. JP BBQ will be providing the side dishes. Meat and buns are being donated by the Men's Club. The Knights of Columbus will be cooking and grilling for the evening. Halloween festivities for the kids will be held as well.

**Spiritual Life Committee:** Elaine Prochak submitted a report stating The Spiritual Life Committee has not met in person due to the pandemic. Committee members discussing an in-person meeting this October. Discussion will include the collection for Birthright of Columbus, whether it will be items or strictly a monetary collection.

**Welcome Committee:** The Welcome Committee has not met in person due to the pandemic. One of our main functions has been a Welcome table at the Church Festival but since it was cancelled this year. The Committee will hold off meeting in person until 2022. A fairly new Parishioner praised how welcoming and friendly our Parish is and was one of the determining factors in joining St. Margaret.

**Worship Committee:** Rosa Jankowski reported The Worship Committee did not have a meeting this month. They will be meeting the first Thursday in October.

**Youth Group:** Due to Covid, there is nothing to report.

**Knights of Columbus:** Larry Pishitelli stated the Knights are holding a Pancake breakfast Sunday, 9-19-21, after 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. mass. All are invited to attend. Breakfast with Santa is being planned for Sunday, December 12, after 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. mass. The Parish received a generous donation of carryout containers, cups, napkins which can be stored and used for upcoming events in Kulp Hall. Andrea Boyd will use some of the supplies for preschool crafts. Mike Brewster, member of the Knights, will lead in praying the Rosary for America on October 16, 2021, beginning at 12:00 noon which will be held on the lawn in front of our Parish **Men's Club** - Ed Gabel indicated the Men's Club held a sub sale in September. Men's Club meeting will be held September 21, 2021. The Club will be assisting with the October 16<sup>th</sup> Parish/Volunteer dinner.

**Education:** James Duckro was not able to provide a report due to the retirement of his previous contacts through the education committee.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** **Mary Smith** stated SVdP assisted 3 nearby residents in the 43204-area code with rent assistance over the last 3 months. One claims she's going to attend St. Margaret and start being Catholic again; assisted another nearby resident in the 43204-area code with utility bills. Landlords are now allowed to evict renters who have not paid rent again and expect more calls to come in the future. SVdP will assist if we feel the need is valid. More than \$1,600 was collected from 5th Sunday donations in August. While financial donations are DEEPLY appreciated, more members to do the work are needed as we lost 2 volunteers. It becomes increasingly difficult to do this much needed work without help. St. Vincent DePaul Society may be forced to disband by the end of the year if new volunteers don't join and step up to lead. **PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING YOUR TIME TO THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY. Volunteers are needed for most of the Parish ministries.**

**Church Safety Committee:** **Joe Wickham** indicates there is nothing to report at this time.

**President's Report:** **Dan Martin** indicated attendance at Mass is increasing. As stated above, there is a tremendous need for volunteers throughout the Parish ministries. There is a need for Altar Servers for the Sunday 8:30 a.m., Mass.

**Pastors Report:** **Father Jeff** reported there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> event for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary featuring Joe Peppercorn, our St. Margaret's organist, performing a free organ concert. Details will be forthcoming. Parish Festival raffle sale netted \$18,000 in profit. Also of note, many of the festival ride companies are going out of business and may become an issue as the Festival Committee plans for next year. Finance report from fiscal year 2020 was discussed. The Church was fortunate to continue operating with no staff layoffs or furloughs through the pandemic. Please register for the Parish Planning session at <https://realpresencerealfuture.org/> as part of the Diocesan survey being conducted. You must register for either Oct. 2 or Oct. 9 session, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you are unable to participate at that time, a recording will be available only if you have previously registered. As we all know, there is a shortage of Priests throughout Diocese. As of now there are 104 Parishes with 85 active priests. 43% of the priests are over the age of 60. By 2030, estimating there will be 75 priests for 104 Parishes. Attendance continues to decline Attendance is counted annually every Sunday in October. Many of our Council members have extended their service on Parish Council due to the pandemic. Please consider serving by becoming a member of Parish Council. Four new members will be selected in April. Submit your name to Father Jeff or any current Council member.

**Adjournment/Closing Prayer led by Fr. Jeff.** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Council prayed the Our Father to close the meeting. The next Parish Council meeting will be November 1, 2021 at 6:30pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Carla Manahan  
Parish Council Secretary