



## ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – November 18, 2019*

**Elected Members Present:** Kevin Maher, Deborah Harrison, Lourdes Eyer, Peter Adams, Christine Forbes, Pam Vogt, Kevin Green, Ross Terranova

**Elected Members Absent:**

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm.

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Deacon Carl Locatelli, Deacon Michael McCabe

**Parish Members Present:**

**The meeting began with prayer at 6:45 p.m.**

**Minutes of the Meeting of October 14, 2019, were accepted.**

*The following updates were given:*

### **Ministry Reports:**

#### Administration & Stewardship:

A concern was raised that the refrigerator might be running a little warmer than it should and/or taking too long to cool to the proper temperature after the door is open. The refrigerator should maintain 41 degrees. First thing in the morning, it is usually 39-40 degrees, but can read 42 or 43 as the door is opened throughout the day, and slightly higher if there is an event and the door opened more frequently and for a longer period of time. To be on the safe side, an appointment will be made with a refrigeration specialist.

#### Education & Faith Formation:

Twenty people attended the Morning of Reflection titled "Come to the Water," facilitated by Pat Davies. The freewill donations covered all the costs.

The next chapter of the Book Club will begin November 19. The Advent-appropriate selection is "Light of the World" by Amy-Jill Levine, an Old Testament scholar, who explores the biblical events leading up to and including the birth of Jesus.

### Christian Services:

- At the Senior Luncheon on November 6, 93 guests were served – and there was even a little profit.
- The Thanksgiving Baskets will be packed on Sunday, November 24, and then distributed the next morning. It is expected that between 70 and 75 families will be served.
- The Pine Bush Community Band will present its annual holiday concert at 7 p.m. Monday, November 25. To accommodate the large number of performers, the band traditionally does some re-arranging of movable items on and around the altar. However, given the cost of the new boom microphone in the choir area, it will be removed ahead of time so there is no risk of any unintentional damage.
- It was noted that there seems to be quite a few angel tags remaining on the Giving Tree. Could the timing have been off this year with Thanksgiving so late? Or did people only take one angel this year because they were restricted to one last year?

### Social Activities:

About 110 registered parishioners older than 60 have signed up for the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner, to be prepared and served by Rick and Julie Dzurilla and their team.

### Worship & Spiritual Life:

- The Youth Ministry's Harvest Festival, which included a trunk-or-treat and walking tacos, attracted about 125 people. It was encouraging to see so many folks not connected with St. Paul's and hear them inquire about other events. Also, it was learned that a family has decided to switch to St. Paul's from another church – and the link is believed to be their daughter who's been coming to Youth Ministry events as an invited guest.
- The basketball hoop is up – and scoring with the kids.
- The Youth Minister has coordinated with the Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen to provide take-away bags for the homeless. In November, the Youth Ministry will meet to pack the bags with items such as water, snacks, hats and gloves, tissues, etc.
- There are three Parish Council seats to be filled in January 2020, and three nominees, so no elections are necessary. They will be invited to the December meeting, which will include a thank you and goodbye to Lourdes Eyer and Kevin Maher.

## **Vicar's Report (Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm.)**

- Because of a change in FCC regulations, the wireless microphones used by Father and Deacon Carl will be inoperable by July, the latest. It made sense, then, to ask Monte Brothers, the sound system provider, to take a look at our equipment in general. Their representative suggested our five archaic mics in the choir be replaced with a multidirectional unit on a tall stand. We used it on a trial basis and decided to proceed because the sound was noticeably improved. The portable units will still have to be purchased.
- The increased giving campaign did what it was supposed to do. If the increased giving continues and there are no major projects, we should be able to hold our own and make the annual payments to the Archdiocese in lieu of conducting the Renew & Rebuild campaign.
- However, there seems to always be a project that needs to be addressed. Most recently, concerns have been raised about inadequate lighting in the vicinity of the doors to Deacon John Hall, which was noted one Friday evening along with a suspicious car parked near the shed. Additionally, the Safety Committee recently attended a professional workshop. They still have to meet with Fr. Sean, and the discussion will probably include the possibility of installing an outdoor camera.
- The Finance Committee met on November 4 to review the annual figures. The people's report will be in the bulletin in December and at a time when there are no competing inserts.
- The Arimathean Ministry met for the first time. A good selection of parishioners were present, which should allow for coverage at a variety of funerals.
- A check was sent to the family discussed at the last meeting. There was verbal resistance, but it was mailed anyway. The question now is: Will it be cashed?
- Every year at Christmas, a parishioner sends us \$500 to be given to a single mother in need. Inquiries will be made to find the right recipient.
- Our Advent Penance Service is December 6. Reconciliation Monday is December 16.

## **Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)**

While Deborah Harrison has thoroughly enjoyed her tenure as chairperson, it is her last year, one that is coming with some increased job responsibilities. Christine Forbes has agreed to co-chair, and it was discussed that it makes sense for Christine to assume the role of chairperson with Deborah in the vice position to offer guidance.

## **Other Business**

Discussion ensued as to whether there is any way to *inexpensively* pipe the Mass into the kitchen, particularly during a funeral, perhaps using a security app on a phone. If

there is already wiring in the walls, it might be possible.

**The meeting closed at 7:25 p.m. with prayer.**

**Next meeting will be Monday, December 9, 2019, at 6:45 p.m. wherein new Parish Council members will be welcomed and departing ones bid farewell.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**