

Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024; 7:00 p.m.
Parish Center, St. Francis Solanus

In attendance: Marc Albanese, Liz Coats, Sharon Dal Cero, Tim Davis, Gerry Frank, Susan Guydosh, Scott Hamula, Leo Kawczenski, Father Bernard Maloney, Andy Morpurgo, Dick Pell, Duane Porterfield, Sheila Ryan **Excused:** Barbara Bero, Jackie Leidenfrost, Kevin Oefelein, Karen Salino, Russ Wedemeyer

Opening prayer

November Minutes Approved

1. Word: Scott Hamula emailed report prior to the meeting.

- There are 4 volunteers to facilitate Eucharistic Revival classes so far. When all volunteers are found this January, a training in February will be scheduled so classes can start in March.
- Q & A:
 - Can class material be used as a family at home? Yes
 - Are cofacilitators permitted? Yes
 - Do facilitators teach? They do not teach. They use a guide to hold a discussion on the video. Facilitators encourage conversation and are not expected to have answers.
 - Can videos be offered to individual parishioners? Everyone can access videos by visiting the Eucharistic Revival website, but then there wouldn't be discussion.
- Technical aspects of playing the video need to be resolved.
- The class after Mass in December explaining the Eucharist was well attended and well liked.
- Holy Hours have been held at every church. The next will be in March.

2. Worship: Marc Albanese emailed report ahead of meeting.

- A letter regarding the distribution of the precious blood was mailed to Bishop Matano. Bishop Matano responded with a four-page letter. The final response was simply, there is still to be no precious blood at this time.
- The organist at St. Francis Solanus (SFS) can no longer play weekly, so SFS needs another one. SFS also needs a sacristan in February.
- Father will be away during February. Fathers Regis Armstrong and Brenden Buckley will cover Masses.
- There will be Stations of the Cross on Thursdays at Holy Cross (HC) on Thursdays, and on Fridays at St. James the Apostle (SJA). SJA needs lay people for Stations.
- Christmas Mass attendance: SJA 171 + HC 78 + SFS 46 = 295 (276 in 2022) Attendance is still down.
- The Parish Sent out 400 post cards inviting people to Mass, and only 13 cards came back. People simply didn't respond to the invitation. Part of the Eucharistic Revival is to be a missionary and invite people back.

- First Friday, Saturday, and the recitation of the Rosary before weekday mass will be announced in bulletin.
3. Fellowship: Russ Wedemeyer emailed report prior to meeting. Liz Coats gave report.
- Trivia and St. Patrick's Day celebration will take place on Sundays from 1-3pm at SJA.
 - There's discussion of possible pasta and prayers after Stations at SJA.
 - Easter egg hunt on easter at SJA.
 - There was a request to bring back Saturday socials at SFS.
 - A comment was made that always having socials on Sunday afternoons is okay during winter, but make sure to mix it up and have it at different times.
4. Witness Committee: Gerry Frank emailed report ahead of meeting.
- Christmas project: Our parish took 50 children's names/tags and our parishioners took all of the tags. Parishioners from all three churches/both counties participated.
 - Souper bowl Sunday: Food donated at the churches will go to respective pantries. The money donated is split between four food pantries.
 - Ideas for an event for a Witness cause: organize a meal, team up with fellowship committee, hold a rummage sale during Old Home Day in Interlaken.
5. Finance:
- Christmas collection was up thanks partially to large donations.
 - Father Bernard explained cemetery donation procedure—if no cemetery is designated, the donation goes into the general fund to be divided between cemeteries.
 - The SJA Cemetery fund is large enough to cover costs but is not fully funded. HC is also not fully funded.
 - Announcements: Rita King, our oldest parishioner, passed away. It might be nice to have a dinner for parishioners in their 90s.
 - The Knights of Columbus offered money to the parish.
 - Buildings and grounds: HC problems, such as broken stairs and the rusty door, will be addressed at the next buildings and grounds committee meeting.

Next meeting is March 14, 2024, at the Parish Center, St. Francis Solanus, Interlaken.

Closed with the Hail Mary