

Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy  
Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2023; 7:00 p.m.  
Parish Center, St. Francis Solanus,

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

**Opening prayer**

**September Minutes Approved**

1. Witness Committee: Gerry Frank emailed report ahead of meeting.
  - The Coat Distribution in Seneca County went well. 149 coats were given.
  - The parish office is in the process of making online food pantry donations possible.
  - There is a new volunteer for the parish card ministry.
  - Seneca County Community Christmas Project Angel Tree tags will soon be available. The distribution of gifts is December 13 at the Ovid VFW. Volunteers are needed.
2. Worship: Marc Albanese emailed report ahead of meeting.
  - Marc Albanese briefly touched on the schedule of various upcoming liturgical events.
  - Father Bernard will look into first Friday devotionals.
  - The Precious Blood is still not permitted. Parish Council president and Worship Committee chair will write a letter to Bishop Matano.
  - There will be morning masses on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve will not fulfill Sunday obligation.
3. Word: Scott Hamula emailed report prior to the meeting.
  - There will be a 7-session series entitled “Jesus and the Eucharist.” The series is comprised of two-hour sessions, each with video and small group discussion. Facilitators are necessary for the sessions. These classes will begin in 2024.
  - Regarding scheduling these classes, an option is to have the facilitator decide logistics that are convenient for them. The next step is to solicit facilitators.
4. Fellowship: Russ Wedemeyer emailed report prior to meeting.
  - The Committee lead a successful Trivia Night. Fourteen people attended.
  - The next event is the Christmas social. The Committee is still confirming logistics.
  - The possibility of socials after holy days was discussed.
5. Finance: Eileen Heptig, business manager, gave a brief report.
  - The Parish passed the audit. Auditors mandated removal of remote deposit at St. James and three people per count team. Counters expressed dissatisfaction of three person count teams. Eileen Heptig explained that Diocesan procedures cite security and safety. The parish needs to push online giving. Online giving takes burden off counters and creates steady income.
  - From July-Oct attendance was 230 people a week, but attendance has dropped since. Attendance at MMM is up, but in the diocese overall it is down.

**Next meeting is January 11, 2024, at the Parish Center, St. Francis Solanus, Interlaken.**

**Closed with the Lord’s Prayer**