

St. Patrick Parish Council minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Present – Fr. Jerry Gunderson, Jennifer Boldry, Peggy Gaier, Pat McCaskey, Madeleine McCoy, Patrick Moorhead, Pat Plodzeen, Alejandro Quiroz, Ramiro Roman, Madeleine Slingerland, Michael Wodarczyk

Welcome – Pat McCaskey

Opening Prayer – Ramiro Roman

Approval of May 15 Meeting Minutes – Peggy Gaier – all approved

New Board Member Approval

Patrick Moorhead was unanimously approved as a new member of the St. Patrick's Parish Council. Pat is a longtime parishioner of St. Patrick's who's been involved in many volunteer activities from here to Waukegan since retirement. He may be familiar to St. Patrick's parishioners for his work with the Domestic Abuse and Violence Awareness. Pat was welcomed for his desire to serve the Parish.

Administrator's Report – Fr. Gunderson

Renew My Church - Fr. Gunderson has met with Bis. Grob who shared our commitment to continued work on evangelization alongside Holy Cross and St. Mary's.

Pastoral Staff - Brandon Stoy has assumed the newly created position called Director of Faith Formation for youth and children. Dawn Isaia has assumed additional duties with regard to liturgy. Joanne Manarik manages the ministry scheduling software which has improved communication with volunteers.

Recruitment - Due to the reduction in staff, recruitment of lay ministers was a major priority. Recruitment, training, scheduling and ongoing formation of ushers, sacristans, and altar servers was given the priority. Ramiro and Lucia Roman have agreed to lead Baptismal preparation; Brad and Janet Morris will lead OCIA; Fr. Andrew Kolenda will lead and recruit altar servers; Marianne Steiler will lead the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at Mass and for the homebound; and Amanda McDonagh and Janet Morris will lead the Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Liturgical Preparation - Father is resurrecting a liturgy planning group composed of representatives of the various liturgical ministries.

Communication - Father has a desire for improved communication at all levels of parish life with a weekly letter in the bulletin, and meetings with individuals as needed. He expressed

a desire to incorporate Pope Francis' 'Conversation in the Spirit' as a guide to using prayer in our deliberations in groups.

Ministry Reports

Men's Group – Michael Wodarczyk

There is a need to recruit ushers.

Men's Club member Jeff McMahan will be running in the Berlin Marathon on Sep. 29. The cause he is running for would appreciate financial support.

Roberti Community Center needs rescue drivers once a month.

The Blood Drive was a success with all slots taken and walk-ins were accommodated as well. The next Blood Drive is in December.

Women's Group – Peggy Gaier

The Women's Group is not taking dues for the first time, to see if that will increase women's desire to join.

Their kick-off will be a 10:30 Mass on Thursday, September 19, celebrated by Fr. Gunderson, followed by a brunch. There is no charge for the brunch, but an RSVP is necessary for the count.

The Christmas party will feature Sr. Nancy Murray, the entertaining sister of Bill Murray.

The Sharing Tree will also take place again this year.

Religious Education – Pat Plodzeen

73 students are registered in grades 1-7 and 16 for Confirmation.

1 catechist may be needed for the Tuesday 6/7th grade.

Classes start on September 16th and 17th.

Calendar is out - there are plenty of subs.

The Christmas family movie will return on December 14

Exploring seasonal activities for the youth, like Advent Wreath making.

The Christmas program will once again be held.

Sycamore Update – Pat Plodzeen and Peggy Gaier

This year Sycamore is a repeat with a few returnees, they are expecting 20-40.

Cards were mailed to every household, and it was surprising more did not respond. More extensive advertising in the Chicago Catholic and local papers may get people from outside the

St. Pat's family. Mass times were also put on the cards, so that may influence attendance. It was also suggested to use Best Version Media, run by Dave Durrand, for ways to advertise.

Program begins September 18th in the O'Gara Center from 7-8:30pm.

Old Business

Annual Dinner with Holy Cross and Saint Mary's (host) Parish Councils – Ramiro Roman reported that it is supposed to happen this fall, but St. Mary's has yet to respond. Jennifer Boldry will send a message to Rebecca Quackenbush to get the plans moving.

Jennifer Boldry shared that the new statuary of the Holy Family will ship in November, but the date of shipment of the crucifix is not yet known.

Jennifer Boldry also shared that there were some close calls for some children during our popular Donut Sunday. She suggested that while fellowship is the most important aspect of Donut Sunday, some parental supervision would be prudent to reduce the possibility of accidents.

New Business

Madeleine Slingerland suggested a new way to promote online giving in the pews. Calls will be made to St. Norbert's to see how they utilize this.

Madeleine McCoy related that Angela Spilotro, Janet & Brad Morris and Maureen Anger participated in the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this summer. Madeleine M. will have articles about Eucharistic Adoration in the bulletin and will also have a table of free pamphlets and books to aid in Adoration. She shared the 'Walk with 1' as a process of constantly praying for someone who has left the Church. Fr. Gunderson has invited Bishop Grob to speak to the Parish about his experience at the NEC, after October 20th.

Next Meeting Date: October 14, 2024 new meeting time of 7:30

Closing Prayer – Peggy Gaier

Opening Prayer for the October meeting will be said by Patrick Moorhead, and Closing Prayer will be said by Ramiro Roman

Respectfully submitted by: Madeleine Slingerland