

St. Patrick Parish Council minutes
Wednesday, November 11, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Welcome – Pat McCaskey

Opening Prayer – Alejandro Quiroz

Approval of October 14 Meeting Minutes – Peggy Gaier, Alejandro Quiroz, all approved

Administrator's Report – Fr. Gunderson

1. Addressing the need to reach out to more parishioners, Fr. Gunderson found a contact at the Archdiocese, Maggie Bahler, through a parishioner. Maggie informed Father that Robo calls were not as effective as a video message. He is happy to create a "Come join us for Christmas" message, and is happy to have found this valuable contact.
2. October Count Results - On an average, 680 people attended Mass on the four weekends in October. The average attendance for each Mass is as follows:
 - a. 5:00pm 190
 - b. 8:00 am 120
 - c. 10:00am 230
 - d. 11:45am 140

The Archdiocese has policies in place that suggest a certain number of people for the size of the church. Considering the October count, there may be some discussion about the number of Masses on Sundays. Much deliberation between Parish groups and information going out to the parishioners will take place before any decisions are made.

3. Bulletin and Parish Communications
 - a. Fr. Gunderson, Jennifer Boldry, and Tim Klunder (Communications Director) met to discuss ways the bulletin can be more uniform and to create more space for Parish activities. In the future, 'Brand Standards' will be utilized, and there will be a policy stating what garners full, half, and quarter pages.
 - b. Another policy will be instituted as to what posters can be placed on doors, and how many easels can be placed in the meeting spaces.
4. Ministry of Care - Thanks to Linda Jackson for the many years of coordinating this ministry. As Linda is retiring from this leadership role, Marianne Seiler will be overseeing both this ministry and the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. The past session on Saturday, with Sister Alicia from Our Lady of the Angels, was well received, and ministers were invigorated to align themselves to the proper procedures.
5. OCIA - We have Catechumens under the age of 20. This past Sunday, Joaquim and Miles Guerro celebrated the Rite of Acceptance into Catechumenate at the 10:00am Mass, and Isabelle Collister will celebrate next Sunday.

6. Priest Personnel - Tim Weiske (Director of the Department of Parish Vitality and Mission for the Archdiocese of Chicago) plans to report back to the Presbyteral Council at the January meeting that St. Patrick's and Holy Cross should remain independent parishes. If a pastor can be found for us, Bishop Grob concurs with this recommendation. We will again enter the eligible pastor pool, but if there is no priest, we may have to share. We won't know until March.
7. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Sunday, Dec. 8) will be celebrated on Monday Dec. 9, with no obligation to attend on Monday. Mass on Monday will be in the Main Church.
8. Liturgy Committee - A Communal Reconciliation service along with St. Mary's will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024. Priests will be available for Confessions after a prayer service. This is not an opportunity for a whole group confession.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Men's Group – Michael Wodarczyk (by email)

1. Urgent need for ushers at the 10:00 Mass.
2. Morning at Marytown (in connection with St. Mary's Men's Group): presentation at St. Maximilian Kolbe (Marytown): Sat., Nov 16, 2024. 8:30am Mass, 9:00am breakfast, 9:30am talk: "The Holy Souls in Purgatory" register here: [Morning at Marytown](#)
3. Blood Drive Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024
4. Watch Party on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024
5. Men's Retreat on Friday & Saturday, Apr. 4-5, 2025.

Women's Group – Peggy Gaier

1. The Beer & Brat night was a success with 56 people attending.
2. Sharing Tree , sign-ups are Nov. 2-3 & 16-17 to pick an ornament with a family and buy gifts (through Catholic Charities) and return the gifts by Sunday, Dec 8, 2024. You may also purchase \$50 gift cards from Target or Walmart which will be distributed to Most Blessed Trinity Food Pantry families. There are three ways to do it:
 - a) Drop off Walmart or Target gift cards or checks made out to St. Patrick Women's Group in the locked offertory boxes identified as "Offertory St. Patrick's Parish" in the gathering area of the church. The doors to the church are open Monday-Friday from 10am-2pm.
 - b) Send a check made out to St. Patrick Women's Group to the parish office (991 S Waukegan Rd, Lake Forest, IL 60045). We will purchase gift cards with money received.
 - c) Make an [online donation](#) via credit card on our website. The funds collected will be used to purchase gift cards.
3. The Christmas luncheon, Dec. 11, 2024 will feature Sr. Nancy Murray, the entertaining sister of Bill Murray and will also feature the Daniel Wright Orchestra playing for the guests' enjoyment.

4. Egg Nog Hospitality will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024
5. Trivia Night will be on Saturday February 8, 2025

Domestic Abuse/Violence – Patrick Moorhead

1. The mission of this ministry at St. Patrick Parish is to 'inform, Educate, and Refer *There is absolutely no counseling* (e.g., therapy) conducted by Ministry members
2. Father Dahm has separated The Domestic Abuse/ Violence from the Archdiocese and is now operating independently as a 501-C3 charitable group.
3. Under a mandate from then-President Obama the CDC was directed to develop an awareness and Prevention curriculum which is now in place in several Chicago area schools. The Archdiocese of Chicago and A Safe Place in Waukegan teamed on an educational mission to address Teen Dating, Abuse / Violence Prevention.
4. Holy Cross DA/V Ministry, last February 2024, initiated a program involving the Youth Group Confirmation classes (aka, Fishes and Loaves) that focused on Healthy Teen Relationships, Dating, Violence, and Prevention.
5. Program participants included Commander Ron Wolflick of the *Illinois Task Force focusing on Internet Crimes Against Children*. Additionally, Ms. Pat Theodore of A Safe Place in Lake County co-presented on the resources available in Lake County.
6. The Confirmation classes (loaves 21 teens; fishes 17 teens) and interested parents were invited to attend the February 2024 program which is in planning to be replicated in early 2025.
7. St. Patrick Ministry members participate in Zoom meetings with Holy Cross DA/V Ministry and are monitoring the progress and outcome from these sessions.
8. October was Domestic Violence Prevention month, and on one Sunday the DA/V Ministry hosted a display table staffed by Ministry members. Leader, Sally Willis spoke at each Mass about the Ministry inviting parishioners to join in this effort.
9. The St. Patrick website (scroll down under Resources) offers referral information and articles to provide education.

A Sacred Trust – Patrick Moorhead

A Sacred Trust is a Small Faith Community of people whom God has entrusted with the care of a disabled person or persons. The Group meets for fellowship, resource sharing and to hear speakers on a variety of topics. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the O’Gara Center of St. Patrick Church, Lake Forest at 7:30 p.m.

Religious Education – Pat Plodzeen

1. The Family Christmas Movie night will return on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024
2. Janet Morris is very encouraged by the teenagers in OCIA.
3. The Youth Group needs more publicity to start, word has not gotten out.
4. Baptismal Prep is getting underway with Ramiro and Lucia Roman assisting families wanting to Baptize their children at St. Patrick's.

5. Sycamore's numbers are good this year with a group earnestly searching for answers.
6. Advent candle lighting will begin with families lighting the candles at each Mass.
7. Children's Liturgy of the Word has been well received, with many children participating.
8. Wednesday and Thursday morning Bible Studies are going strong and well attended.

Old Business

1. Annual Dinner with Holy Cross and Saint Mary's (host) Parish Councils – Ramiro Roman reported it is not moving forward. We will wait to see what transpires.
2. Oct. 27, 2024, the Knights of Columbus held their Coats for Kids drive for children 12 months to adults. We had a very successful \$3400 donated to purchase these coats, but larger coats are still needed. Religious Education is having a Hat & Mitten drive to coincide with the Coat Drive.
3. Fr. Jim Sichko will be considered as a speaker later in the year.
4. Nov. 27, 2024, 1-3pm, Sports Faith International will award Bishop Robert Barron the Bishop Fulton Sheen Award at a luncheon at the DoubleTree in Mundelein.
5. Alejandro thanked the group for prayers, and was thankful his friend, Christian Mattis, was finally found in the Lake in northern Michigan, giving peace to his grieving family.

New Business

1. Peggy shared that someone was unhappy about the replacing of the Celtic cross. It was noted that the cross is in great disrepair, and will find a new, safe home within the building. She also shared that someone was disgruntled that there was no crucifix in a supposedly Catholic church. She got it from both sides!
2. Peggy also suggested there be a space in the bulletin to welcome new parishioners.
3. Jennifer will check that the lining of the handicapped parking space in the front lot has enough accessibility on the driver's side.

Next Meeting Date: January 13, 2025 meeting time of 7:30pm

No December meeting. January 13 is first of the new year, we will discuss the need for a meeting in February.

Closing Prayer – Ramiro Roman

Opening Prayer for the January meeting will be said by **Peggy Gaier**, and **Closing Prayer** will be said by **Pat Plodzeen**.

Respectfully submitted by: Madeleine Slingerland, Nov. 12, 2024