

St. Petronille Church

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

1. Call to Order: The regular minutes of the St. Petronille Parish Council called to order at 7:03pm
2. Opening Prayer: Fr. Milota
3. Attendance: Present: Joe Dougherty—President, Kimberly Meinhart—Vice President, Molly Hoerster—Secretary, Rich Cullotta, (Christian Service), Eileen Buccola (Religious Education), Joe Dougherty (Worship), Kevin Moffitt (at large), Bob Solak (at large), Victor Trinkus (at large), Fr. Thomas Milota—Pastor; Absent: Tom Kane (Finance), Robert Van Witzenburg (School Board), Klovirt Alnar (Sudanese Community), Fr. Les—Parochial Vicar
4. Parishioner Participation: None
5. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Motion to approve November 21, 2023 minutes, with suggested changes, by Eileen, 2nd by Rich, and all in favor
6. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve January 16, 2024 agenda by Vic, 2nd by Rich, and all in favor
7. Commission Reports
 - a. **Religious Education** (Eileen Buccola presented) Highlights from February 13 meeting include:
 1. *Young Adult/Youth Ministry* - Gabi
 - Planning high school participation in Joliet Youth Day
 - Inviting middle schoolers and high schoolers to Fish Fry
 - Hunger Awareness is focus with Middle Schooler
 2. *Religious Ed* - Julie
 - First communion approaching - parent meetings have been held, retreat is April 13.
 - Confirmation scheduled with Bishop Kane March 14; There is a new exam this year. Interviews have gone well; Confirmation planning for 2025 already underway
 3. *Adult Ministry* - Tim and Nancy O'Donohue
 - Coordinating with Young Adult/Youth Ministry on March for Life Event in Springfield

- b. **Christian Service** (Rich Cullotta reported). Highlights from December 12 meeting (January meeting was cancelled due to weather) include:
- **GE Walk-in-Ministry** - a 15% increase in clients through October 2023 over the same period in 2022; a 39% increase in total services gas, car repairs, Aldi food certificates, and utility assistance
 - **Ministry of Care** - 17 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to the homebound with 8 people receiving the Eucharist
 - **PADS** - Through generous donations through groups and corporations, PADS has been distributing coats
 - **SVDP** - Request for rents and electric bill are being paid; senior housing available in West Chicago w/ income below \$40,000
 - **Bridge Communities** - Next Mentor Training is March 2nd. Jim and Trish Lenahan and Mark Shutock will represent St. Petronille.
 - **ESSE** - The Glen Ellyn and Aurora sites are doing well. Getting requests from new clients; Executive Director still recruiting for an Activity Aide position, which will rotate from Glen Ellyn to Wheaton as needed
 - **MC** - Adopt A Family card drive went well—240 Gift cards \$25 each; school adopted ten Mary's Closet families for this program. Excess cards went to PADS and Metropolitan Family Services.
 - **Choose Life** - The Patients' Rights Council found a speaker addressing end of life issues. Susan Disdomizio is in a new position with the diocese Ministry of Mercy Advisor dealing with end-of-life issues. Will start in two parishes in Feb. or March of '24; The TV streaming program "Formed" has a four-part series on end-of-Life Issues
 - **St. Josephine Bakhita Community** (Klovirt Alnar absent). Highlights from October meeting include:
 - Bishop Hicks blessed the new St. Josephine Bakhita Hall (formerly known as Colonial Hall) and the Mary's Portico on January 14. Father said the event was very special and was enjoyed by attendees and guests, with dancing and singing by the choir
- c. **Finance** (Tom Kane absent): Highlights from November 16 meeting include:
- Budgeting season is coming up, which means Finance council begins to meet every month. Budget will be presented in April and approved in May.
 - Big news: have secured a new Finance Manager Joe Brichetto. Jeff May did a great job filling the gap in the meantime. Baptism by fire, but he's gaining traction.

- Very positive position for parish, both church and school.
 - Church: YTD Sunday/Holy Day collections are almost \$500K, which is under budget by \$16K but slightly ahead of prior year by +\$1K; YTD salaries/benefits are \$216K, which is over budget by \$17K (driven by office and support staff salaries because salaries/benefits are up \$18K versus prior year)
 - School: Tuition and fee revenues are \$1,746K, which is over budget by \$128K (driven by favorability in registration, tablet, and other fees recognized early in the year but budgeted evenly over 12 months); tuition and fees revenues are above last year by \$181K; Parent Organization funding of \$97K is \$47K ahead of budget but \$26K under prior year; YTD salaries and benefits are \$971K, which is over budget by \$47K (driven by \$105K of school bonuses that were not budgeted)
- d. **Worship** (Joseph Dougherty reported): Highlights from January 16 meeting include:

November 21, 2023 - Worship Commission Meeting Summary

- Approval of October 17, 2023 Minutes
- Postmortem Discussion
 - All Souls Day Mass
 - Noted impactfulness and beauty of this mass.
 - Discussed 'advertising' All Souls Day mass to try to increase attendance.
 - Parish's first Holy Hour of Adoration on the third Friday of the month
 - Recognized Lisa Ayres for her coordination and personal contributions including home cooked items for reception.
 - The Procession for Life
 - The Blessing of Father Palmer's organ in the Mary Chapel
- Discussion of Upcoming Liturgical Planning
 - St. Petronille Holy Hour
 - Prayer service held every 3rd Friday of the month.
 - Provides a time to place our intentions and prayers before the Lord.
 - Lessons & Carols
 - Sunday 12/10/23
 - Diocesan Anniversary Mass
 - Blessing of the Bambinelli
 - After all Masses December 16 & 17, Gaudete Sunday
 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
 - Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day)
 - Epiphany of the Lord
 - Blessing of the Mary Portico and Dedication of Bakhita Hall
 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- Upcoming Significant Anniversaries
 - 2024 is the 75th anniversary of the Joliet Diocese
 - July of 2024 is the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana.
 - 2025 is the 100th anniversary of Saint Petronille Parish
- Music - No update
- Altar Servers
 - Approximately 45 new servers were trained.
 - 4th grade teacher was a big help in recruiting the new servers.
 - Worship Commission Secretary to send availability calendars to the new servers.
- EMHC & Lectors
 - Discussed the number of volunteers that were needed for the Christmas Masses.
 - Ministry scheduler indicated that he would wait until a bit closer to Christmas and send out an announcement requesting more ministers for Christmas.
- Ushers & Greeters
 - Discussed seating for ministers serving Christmas masses.
- Eucharistic Adoration
 - 3rd Friday of the month
- Art & Environment
 - Decorating will take place on Friday, December 22 at 8:30am (after the 8am Mass)
 - The PLC will be reserved all day on December 21st for setting up the altar on the stage and the chairs for Christmas Eve Mass.
- Live Streaming of Masses
 - Discussed Streaming of Christmas Masses
 - The 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass and the 9:30 am Christmas Day Mass will be live streamed.

- e. **School Board** (Robert VanWitzenburg absent) Met on November 14. Highlights include:
 - School has begun budgeting process
 - Received a significant donation from a generous parishioner (\$100K to the Capital Campaign and \$400K to the teachers endowment fund; in addition, the couple included the church and school in their will). The identity of the family will be announced soon.

- 8. **Pastor's Report:**
 - St. Pets to host a marriage retreat Feb 24, 8am-12:45pm, sponsored by the Diocese of Joliet
 - Within month, letter going out updating parishioners on the Capital Campaign
 - 100th anniversary—looking for a couple to act as chairs
 - Fr. Gregory Shaeffer—American priest who is a Venezuelan missionary and will be preaching Masses the weekend of February 17-18
 - Colleen Foley hired to replace Deacon Peter as lead of Christian Service Commission

- 9. **Pending Business:** None

- 10. **New Business:** None

- 11. **Executive Session:** None

- 12. **Closing Prayer:** Offered by Fr. Milota

- 13. **Adjournment:** 8:30 pm

Next regular meeting – Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Parishioners are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and speak during Parishioner Participation