

# St. Petronille Church

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

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, Molly Hoerster—Secretary, Joe Dougherty (Worship), Rich Cullotta, (Christian Service), Klovirt Alnar (Sudanese Community), Tom Kane (Finance), Robert Van Witzenburg (School Board), Kevin Moffitt, Bob Solak, Victor Trinkus, Fr. Thomas Milota—Pastor, Fr. Les—Parochial Vicar; Absent: Kimberly Meinhart—Vice President, Eileen Buccola (Religious Education)
4. Parishioner Participation: None
5. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Motion to approve October 17, 2023 minutes, with noted changes, by Kevin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, and all in favor
6. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve November 21, 2023 agenda by Rich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob, and all in favor
7. Commission Reports
  - a. **School Board** (Robert VanWitzenburg reported) Met on November 14. Highlights include:
    - Things continue to go very well
    - In midst of budget planning
    - No December meeting
    - Sate of IL did not renew its Invest in Kids Act (affects about 12 of our students). Supplying stop gaps to help fund those kids into the 6 figure range
    - More work on endowment to keep pace with comparative pay for teachers locally
  - b. **Religious Education** (Eileen Buccola absent) Met on November 14. No formal report. Fr. Les and Fr. Milota reported.
    1. *Young Adult/Youth Ministry* - Gabi
      - Continuing with Catholic Sports with limited access to the school gym
      - Planning Epiphany Ball again to replicate last year's very successful event

2. *Religious Ed* - Julie

- Some feedback about better communication with parents
- Need 7th grade catechist
- First Reconciliation is coming up this month

3. *Adult Ministry* - Tim and Nancy O'Donohue

- Focused on OCIA, with 14 candidates in the program
- Helping with starting up Women's Evening of Reflection
- Working with Lisa Ayres regarding organizing trip to Eucharistic Revival in July 2024

c. **Christian Service** (Rich Cullotta reported). Highlights from November 14 meeting include:

- **CCW** - Working in tandem with Mary's Closet to provide 450 gift cards (primarily through the Adopt-a-family effort using Sign-up Genius) to clients, stocking stuffers and children's toys. Suspect that PADS will be a major beneficiary.
- **GE Walk-in-Ministry** - Revising guidelines for utilities and gas assistance vouchers; gas vouchers have been reduced to 10/yr/person (down from from 12/yr/person)
- **Ministry of Care** - Decrease in number of people receiving Communion at home (17 extraordinary ministers serving 8 people)
- **PADS** - Kitchen construction is ongoing and anticipated to be completed in six months; need for winter coats to be distributed on November 18
- **SVDP** - St. Pets' Thanksgiving collection will go to SVDP; concentrating on helping people keep their homes or apartments over assistance with other smaller bills
- **Bridge Communities** - New location at 500 Roosevelt Road had its grand opening; new Director of Resource Development; started Giving Tuesday with a \$10,000 match from BMO; added two new mentors (one of the two has access to furniture and provided full furnishing to a new Bridge client); Sleep-out-Saturday (which runs until Dec. 2) was a big success with people sleeping in cars and tents
- **ESSE** - Glen Ellyn facility is busy; looking for part-time activity aids at the Glen Ellyn facility; donated funds from original supporting Churches have decreased but no significant effect on major sources of funding
- **GEFP** - Donated 12 bags of food to Mary's Closet; they are set for the December food drive
- **MC** - November Saturday drop-off went well with four 7th and 8th grade students helping; need size 6 diapers, personal care items, and new underwear; St. Pets Parent Organization will be collecting candy canes and cookies for the stocking project; volunteers will be bagging toys to accompany the stockings; averaged 12 to 18 clients per week; clients are limited to shopping once every 3 months

- **Funeral Ministry** - There was a Saturday luncheon after Fr. Palmer's organ dedication with approximately 100 people; as many as 40 volunteers prepare side dishes on a rotating basis for funeral luncheons
  - **Choose Life** - Working with Mary's Closet for a joint Baby Shower in the spring; Sponsoring an at-home Novena to the Lady of Guadalupe (patron for the protection of children), Dec 3-11, ending with a Rosary prayer service in the church on December 12 (to be led by Deacon John); The Patients' Rights Council is looking for a speaker and article authors to address end-of-life issues, i.e., DNR, Advance Directives, Medical Power of Attorney, and comfort care; Choose Life will be providing Fetal Development Models for St. Pets School science classes and RE classes to teach the stages of fetal development. There was a question from the council about why the Field of Crosses were only in place for several weeks as opposed to the whole month of October.
- d. **Sudanese Service** (Klovirt Alnar reported). Highlights from October meeting include:
- - Last Sunday, November 12, Fr. Milota celebrated Mass with the Sudanese. Blessed 8 kids who are altar servers. Sudanese made \$1,700+ contribution to the Capital Campaign. Second Mass with Fr. Milota will be in March.
  - Bishop Hicks to bless Josephine Bakhita Hall (currently known as Colonial Hall) and the portico on January 13. Father suggested the kids accompany Bishop Hicks during the dedication, with dancing and singing by the choir.
  - Without more frequent Confession, certain Sudanese parishioners are not receiving Communion as much as they would like. Father suggested that an Arabic speaking priest from Our Lady of Lebanon come to hear Confessions. The other option is for our parishioners to visit Our Lady of Lebanon to have Confession heard there.
  - Thanksgiving: will participate in the 9:00 Mass and then go to Colonial Hall for presentation about Thanksgiving in Arabic (for adults) and English (for kids)
  - Planning presentations two Sundays prior to Christmas to prepare for celebration of Christmas
- e. **Finance** (Tom Kane reported): Highlights from November 16 meeting include:
- 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)
- f. **Worship** (Joseph Dougherty reported): Highlights from Nov. 21 meeting include:
- Fr. Palmer's organ dedication was a success and well attended.
  - Holy Hour has been started, with October and November completed. Successful so far.
  - All Saints/All Souls Day Masses were beautiful celebration. Need to promote further so more parishioners can participate and enjoy.
  - Upcoming liturgical planning — Advent and Immaculate Conception and Christmas Masses, so need for EHMCS and lectors is great and needs to be done in advance. Will stream two Masses (10:30 pm Vigil and 9:30 Christmas Day Mass).
  - Decorating church Friday Dec. 22 after 8am Mass. All welcome!
  - Lessons and Carols Sunday Dec 10 at 4pm at St. Michael's
  - Nearly 45 new altar servers! Kudos to Fr. Les, Deacon John, and 4th grade teachers!
  - All holiday Masses to have a collection.

8. Pastor's Report:

- Update on crack mentioned in October meeting: Contractor removed some of brick and estimated potential cost. Will implement interim solution this fall/winter in preparation for permanent solution in the spring.
- Father wanted to point out that the ambo was repaired and other furniture will be done after Christmas.
- Getting ready to enter Advent (beginning of liturgical year), beginning with the prophets foretelling the coming of the Messiah and going on from there. Violet season foretells of things we, as a Church, are anticipating. In the case of Advent, it is the coming of the Savior.

- Grade school play (Peter Pan) was back to the “old days.” Four performances...and all were a success.
- Doing Friday Holy Hour (30-40 people this last time). Third Friday. Third Thursdays—Women’s Evening of Reflection at 8pm (will eventually be opened up to a wider audience).
- Fr. Paul Hottinger (a priest of our diocese) donated The Study of St. Petronille, painted by his grandfather who was a parishioner, that used to be behind the tabernacle in the original church in the school. This piece of art eventually will be mounted on the wall. Someone that works at Relevant Radio offered a Relic of St. Petronille to the Church. It will be installed near the painting.
- Capital Campaign: Next project slated to be done: HVAC system. Had to hire architect to do all of the detail work. Will go out to bid before beginning initial steps in the spring and will run into late fall. We knew it was likely to be the single most expensive component of the campaign, and it has proved to be so! Need to have the money for this piece in hand before the project can begin.
- 9:30 Mass for Donut Sunday was very well attended.
- We ask St. Petronille’s intercession to promote the practice of Lectio Divina
- Happy Thanksgiving!

9. Pending Business:

- a. Voted to approve proposed additional revisions to **Parish Council Constitution and By-laws**. Motion to approve by Kevin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, and all in favor, with the change of the word “must” to “shall” regarding parishioner participation

10. New Business: None

11. Executive Session: None

12. Closing Prayer: Offered by Fr. Les

13. Adjournment: 8:39 pm

**Next regular meeting – Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

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