

Mission: *Our parish consists of Good Shepherd Catholic Church & School. The Catholic Community of Good Shepherd strives to live Christ's word daily by our commitment to worship, stewardship, faith formation, Catholic schools, family and social outreach.*

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

OPENING PRAYER: Mykeal Wigger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Fr. Zach opened the meeting with prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Al Bragin, Greg Freyberger, Eric Henderson, Natalie Kropfl, Dianne Norman, Cheryl Shafer, David Ubelhor, Mykeal Wigger, Fr. Zach Etienne, Ruth Becker, Marie Williams

Guest: Brian Lankford

Absent: Maren Smith, Deacon Dan DeCastra

MISSION STATEMENT: Parish council members read the mission statement together.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September minutes were distributed and approved.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Finance (Ruth Becker)

- The financial report was sent to members by email and Ruth provided paper copies at the meeting. The last meeting of the finance committee was November 8.
- The first half of School Choice funds has been received and impacted a positive cash flow.
Collections are favorable.
- The diocesan campaign (CMA – Catholic Ministries Appeal) is lacking. Efforts are being made to increase participation. Plans are also being made for managed giving, in order to increase income and improve planning through consistent donations. The We Share (online) program also allows for donations that have historically been second collections.

School Board

Fr. Zach missed the meeting, but reported that preschool tuition was being discussed and a budget was approved.

Long Range Planning – Brian Lankford

- The last joint council meeting was held Wednesday, 10/24/23, for an update on the planning. Jack Faber has been working with design renderings for all the buildings, getting feedback from committee members. The work is nearly complete.
- Brian is working on a summary of the parish group interviews, and he will include a list of all those who participated.
- Phase diagrams (with today's costs) are being prepared.
- A drawing of the entire campus of the future is also being prepared.
- The plan is to roll out an update on all these efforts to the parish on the website in January. For current information, visit the following link: <https://gsparish.org/long-range-strategic-planning-committee/#.Y9qVM3bMJPY>
- Fr. Zach and Brian met with Matt Miller (diocesan Director of Workshop) about the work to be done in the church. The baptismal font is broken, and there are no plans to repair it. Our updated church plans currently lean towards removal of the large baptismal font area and replace with extra seating capacity.
- We have been reminded that diocesan approval is needed for all phases of the process, as it moves forward. In meeting with diocesan personnel, they expressed appreciation that we are keeping everyone informed through the website.

PASTOR REMARKS - Input from Council Members

Fr. Zach asked the council to provide feedback for him by asking them questions. What are people in the parish talking about? What good things are happening? Father also shared some of his thoughts along with the members.

- Enthusiasm about Columbiettes is high and there was a great turnout for the Mass and opening event on Saturday, November 11th.
- We have new tables in the cafeteria that fold up. Other tables are being saved for future expansion. More space in the cafeteria and new tables are being enjoyed by students and staff. Other areas are now more accessible for various activities. Bible study is being held in the cafeteria and there have been some receptions. Guidelines for use of the cafeteria need to be developed. The form being used to reserve the area was shared.
- A more inclusive parish calendar would be helpful. Logistics were briefly discussed and this will continue to be considered with the staff.
- This Sunday is Brute Sunday and our recipients have been identified and will participate.
- Because tourism is shut down in Israel, we are working to support our tour guide, Shafik Khbeis, and his tour companions in Jerusalem. Dana Blanke has worked with Carolyn

Norbut from Journey of Faith Tours to create a virtual presentation of the Holy Land. Parishioners and local Evansville people are invited to participate and learn more about Jesus and the Holy Lands, while financially supporting Christians living in the Holy Lands where Jesus lived: December 3, 10, and 17.

- The local Vietnamese community has asked if Good Shepherd Catholic Church can host a Sunday Vietnamese' Mass once a month with a priest from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. We want to be involved in this outreach, so Father Zach will seek proper permission from Bishop Siegel and Archbishop Thompson.
- Advent Reconciliation will be held on December 10 at 1:00, as well as from 6:00 to 8:00 PM during ARISE on December 10th. Opportunities are also available during regularly scheduled times each week.
- This year's St. Meinrad Sunday is scheduled for January 13th and 14th.
- There is discussion in the diocese concerning moving Confirmation to 5th grade. Father Zach has suggested it should be moved to 2nd grade to align with restored order for reception of the sacraments. If a change is made, Diocese personnel will need to develop a transition plan for all parishes.
- Father Zach mentioned the great job members of our K of C did cleaning up our parish grounds during this past Saturday.

OLD BUSINESS

- The new parishioner dinner was held on Oct. 22, after the 10:30 Mass. Invitations were sent to 63 households (10/2022 – 9/2023). Twenty-one households were represented. This was provided by the hospitality committee and was a very positive experience for those who attended, including 27 parish representatives. A debrief meeting was held to discuss changes for the next event, which is scheduled for the first weekend in March.
- Father shared 5 top questions that he has been asked in recent weeks:
 - (Q) Why do we have 5 servers? (A) Because we have many young people who want to serve at Mass. In recent years, we added 4th grade servers. Without 5 total servers, volunteers have to wait a few weeks/months before they rotate back on the list. It is great that more students want to be involved in our server program.
 - (Q) Why don't you allow servers to hold the Book? (A) During COVID pandemic, I didn't want to have a server standing directly in front of me as I was speaking directly into their face. Adding a stand in front of me made it easier to stay organized during Mass. However, I can consider switching things back.
 - (Q) Why did Father Zach stop allowing Lectors to read the petitions during weekend Masses without a Deacon present? (A) It was easier for me to take on this task. Lectors don't have an opportunity to review petitions in advance, and Father has the opportunity to verify proper pronunciations. However, I can consider switching things back.
 - (Q) Why did Father Zach start using the title "Very Reverend"? (A) On August 08, 2022, Father Zach became the Dean of our South Deanery in the Diocese of Evansville. Deans and Vicar Generals use this title for proper communication.
- The process of creating a new parish directory is going well. Nearly all appointments are filled and most all are completed. There seems to be little waiting time, with

appointments staying on schedule. We need to be sure there is a date on the front of the new directory.

- There was a brief discussion about rental policies for parish facilities. This needs more discussion and further work.
- The Fall Festival booth was a success.
 - Total profit was \$13,739.16
 - Each of the six groups (Haiti, PTO, Little Rams, Parish, KofC, Columbiettes) received \$2,289.86
 - Fries were a big hit, but caused long waits, so there is a recommendation to buy another fryer.

NEW BUSINESS

- Father Zach was recently asked to consider changing our parish Christmas outreach project from “Operation Christmas Child” to a similar Catholic sponsored program, “Cross Catholic Outreach.” Cross Catholic Outreach is a Catholic ministry that partners with bishops, priests, sisters, religious and lay workers to provide food, water, housing, education, support for orphans and vulnerable children, health care, disaster relief and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to the poorest of the poor in over 30 countries around the world. After discussion, there was a strong consensus that we stay with the same project next year. It has been successful and indicates our desire to be ecumenical in our outreach.
- There are no plans to order books for the Advent/Christmas season. Cursillo groups have done this in the past. Members expressed appreciation for the resources we already have, especially *Word Among Us*, which is seasonal.

DEBRIEF

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

CLOSING PRAYER (Prayed together)

Dear Lord, we are so thankful for all the blessings you bestow in our lives. We thank you for all that was accomplished in this meeting. We appreciate all the gifts that we each bring to our church community. Continue to be our light as we grow in our daily walk with you. Let us never forget that we do all things for your glory. Amen.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Williams, Recording Secretary