

St. Matthew Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Nov. 20, 2024

6:45 p.m.

Roll call

Council members in attendance: Jenny Bruce, Betsy Burke, Chris Dobrota, Rick Gale, Tom Jones, Phyllis Mahoney, Nick McCallum, Mary Marsh, Victor Neff, Pat O'Brien, Father Bill Stumpf, Kate Thedwall, Ann Tully.

Also in attendance: Sandi Patel.

Absent: Tom Dempsey, Beth Desalvo, Christine Gann, Bob Kowal, Dan Murphy, Beth Wissler.

Prayer:

Rick Gale

Notes from the President:

Pat O'Brien discussed plans for the Christmas open house, which was Dec. 18. The Finance Committee, School Commission, Parish staff and Sandi Patel were also invited.

Minutes for October

The minutes were amended to add Phyllis Mahoney, Ann Tully and Nick McCollum as in attendance.

They were approved as amended.

Summary of comments from the Parish Plan review led by Sandi Patel

Communications advisory group.

We haven't done this yet. Do we need it? The idea was for the group to help identify social media outlets, plan for communications strategies and take on some of Stephen Sulka's load in communicating.

The consensus is that we should ask the parish for communications volunteers from different generations to help Sulka review our communications and solidify a plan.

Evangelization Goal

Are we effectively communicating activities and opportunities to serve and engage as a part of the parish?

We are doing new parishioner Sundays once a quarter.

We discussed personal invitation.

Parish ministry fair works well if the committees follow up by contacting the people on the list.

Evaluate parish ministries.

We did this evaluation. We found some that needed help and at least one that needed to be retired.

There is a void in ministries/activities to connect with young adults.

We need to be open to people who have an idea and allow them to run with it.

Faith Formation

Fruits of our efforts: Pam Fleming is getting a good core group of volunteers.

Confirmation, Family Faith Formation and Bible study are all growing. Seven children are being initiated into the church.

North Deanery events for high school. There have been a few events here for high schoolers: Haiti Run, Mass for graduates (school in March and all parish graduates in August).

Goal: Strengthening parishioners' knowledge of our faith.

Liturgical ministers morning of reflection in the spring was well attended and lovely.

Upon This Rock gathering didn't get a lot of people.

Active Bible study, Katie O'Brien has done a good job of gathering people for reflection on faith and is creating an Advent study group.

Liturgy and Worship

Strengthen our liturgical life:

We're praying before Mass with liturgical ministers. Adoration is growing.

Great team is going out to the homebound. Visiting Creekside (the nursing home at 46th and Binford), Clear Vista and Bloom on Kessler. We're also visiting people in their homes.

Deacon Mike has been a great addition to the parish.

We've almost doubled attendance, so we are clearly doing something right. People aren't going to come unless it's something meaningful.

The choir has grown and is active (and beautiful). We've reactivated the handbell choir.

Kids bringing money to the basket is meaningful and welcoming.

Opportunities to know the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith:
Precious Blood at every Mass.

We're in good shape with Eucharistic ministers and altar servers.

Father has a goal of a 24-hour adoration chapel.

This coming Lent, Father would like to do a walkthrough of the Mass.

Comments from Father

Father encouraged us to come to the holiday party with our spouses.

What's happening in the parish?

Advent Evening of Reflection.

Closing prayer

Ann Tully