

St. Augustine Church
Parish Council Meeting
May 20, 2024
7 p.m.

Attendance: Calvin White, Bonnie Robertson, Dave Dilyn, Maria Boyer, Robin McMarlin, Fr. Ben, Jeannie Rawlings, Bob Duda, Fr. Bill, Bill Shaffer, Jo Ann Whigham, Matt Rawlings, Dorothy Barr, Joe Barr, Lin Janson, Deacon Chris, Theresa Ortiz, Mary Jo Miceli, Anthony Camino, Brian Thaxton

Opening Prayer: Bill Shaffer

Approval of Minutes- no changes

PSR Program / Rainbow Camp Report – Matt Rawlings

PSR:

- We wrapped up our PSR sessions on Sunday, May 5.
- Class of 5 First Communicants received First Communion at the 11:00 AM Mass on April 28. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from all families.
 - Mary's Rosary Guild gifted each First Communicant with a beautiful rosary.
 - As a parish, we gifted each with a prayer book and a necklace to commemorate the important day.
- All families enjoyed the time slot of 9:30-10:30 AM in between the two Mass times. We will likely adjust the timing to 9:45-10:45 AM next year from the feedback received.

VBS:

- We will be hosting Vacation Bible School during the week of June 10-14 from 10:00 AM until noon.
- I am seeking volunteers to help run stations, assist with crafts, and lead lessons. If interested, please contact me at JNeuhart@staugustinecleveland.org.

Rainbow Camp:

- Rainbow Camp will run from June 24 through to July 26.
- We currently have 88 enrolled campers and are still accepting applications. Our max amount of campers we will accept is 100-120.
- We have already received five scholarship applications and are seeking donations to help us assist families in need.
 - There is also an Amazon Wish list full of items that will assist us in making it a great summer.
 - Financial appeal letters went out earlier this month and we have had a good response to them so far.
- We are still staffing and specifically seeking staff members with ASL experience.

There was a question- what is the status of the ACE approval? It was denied the first time because the camp did not show the educational benefit. We are appealing and sending documentation of the educational benefits of attending Rainbow Camp.

Music Director Report – Bill Shaffer

Bill has been here almost a year and he is looking at programs we have and what we can add.

- We hosted a wonderful classical guitar concert yesterday performed by Chris McGee.
- With Anthony, we are planning to open our doors during the Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival in September with some performances.
- The organ was “touched up” this week by the restoration company. They tuned the organ, adjusted a few pipes and fixed some low keys with mechanical issues.
- We have started a Bell Choir in the past year and that is continuing.
- Bill is working with Jessica to add some music programming to the camp day during Rainbow Camp and also during Vacation Bible School!

The council responded positively to all these additions!

Liturgy Committee Report – Bill Shaffer

Liturgy Committee Minutes February 12th 2024

- Peggy led in opening prayer
- Review of previous minutes

Old Business:

- Video for Eucharistic Ministers still in production
- Videos for Servers, one with Deacon, one without Deacon, in production
- Signing choir robes-not enough of them; need some in different sizes for the new members
- Stations of the Cross-will be handled by priests/deacon this year; pre-planning for next year will begin sooner to involve more groups/individuals in the reflections; will replace the Rosary after the Friday 5:30pm masses
- Taize service will be planned out for next year as well

New Business:

- Robin read new proposed guidelines for lectors; short discussion; revisions will be made and then distributed to all lectors.
- Lent discussion-no closing hymns for all masses (leave in silence); kids will “bury” the percussion instruments (in a box) the first Sunday in Lent, and then those instruments will “resurrect” on Easter morning where they will be encouraged to use them again. Brief Holy Week discussion mainly centered on encouraging the youth to become servers for the Holy Week masses, with special training happening that week for each mass. Clergy and musicians should also be there for these rehearsals
- Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 11th at 7pm
- Ensure proper lighting for interpreters for the “Journey to Joy” presentation please

Liturgy Committee Minutes for April 15th, 2024

- Opening prayer was led by Bill Shaffer
- Review of minutes from February
 - Discussion about the training videos, with voice-overs and possible re-production of some of them pending; Renee and Jessica volunteered to spearhead these
- Old Business
 - Review of Ash Wednesday, weekends in Lent: positive reactions to having a silent recessional instead of a closing hymn for Lent
 - Review of Journey to Joy: Sound system problems led to a diminished worship environment for all three nights. Suggestion to look into repair/replacement of current sound system
 - Holy Week Review:
 - Palm Sunday-discussion about a better balance of men and women participating in the readings, with a suggestion of a sign-up that goes out before Lent even starts to attract more people to participate
 - Holy Thursday-consenting opinions agreed that the start time was too late to have a dinner after the Mass; suggestion of starting at 6:00pm or 6:30pm instead going forward. Also a general discussion about the lack of explanation surrounding the Transfer of the Most Blessed Sacrament
 - Good Friday-Veneration of the Cross-suggestion of giving a short explanation of what is happening and how to proceed; also suggestion of an earlier start time to match Holy Thursday's earlier start time
 - Easter Vigil-Sound problems prevented those in the church from hearing the beginning portion with the Lucernarium; suggestion to move the process onto the sidewalk leading up to the steps so all can be a part without crowding each other; also need to have an interpreter outside so all can participate
 - Easter Sunday-Good to go!
- New Business:
 - Suggestion to eliminate the greetings at the beginning of Mass; it sets a chaotic atmosphere and is not actually a liturgically appropriate place to do so. In its place should be an announcement about standing/sitting procedures for the 11:00 am Mass for the Gospel reading, Creed, Prayers of the Faithful, so no one feels out of place; announcement should include WHY we do this too.
 - Suggestion to eliminate announcements at the end of the mass too; many times they are redundant from the beginning announcements, and generally interrupt the worship environment that has been established.
 - Baptism Discussion with Father Bill-When baptisms are a part of the Mass, questions were raised as to procedure and protocol; because of

liturgical reasons, the baptismal font needs to remain in the back; two alternate suggestions for making the baptisms more accessible to be more visible were (1) Using a large bowl/basin to bring the water of the baptismal font to the front of the church; (2) Have a raised platform for an interpreter to be on for the baptisms in the back so everyone can follow along and participate

- Meeting adjourned with prayer led by Bill Shaffer
- Next Meeting: Monday, May 13th, 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Bill Shaffer

Liturgy Committee Notes May 13th 2024

- Opening prayer led by Bill Shaffer
- Review of April Minutes-no revisions or amendments
- Instructional Video for Eucharistic Ministers will be coming in the next two weeks or so, thanks to Jessica and Renee
- Jessica gave a summary of PSR to reflect that parents like the times between masses; children attending masses as a result
- First Communion was a complete success, well done and well received; thank you Father Bill!
- VBS will be for one week, June 10-14; volunteers to assist needed; contact Jessica if you are able/willing to help
- Rainbow Camp update: 90 currently enrolled (maximum 120)
- Leadership Availability: Bill announced that he is stepping down as the “leader” of the Liturgy Committee. He feels that a congregational member leading the future discussions will be more advantageous than run by a staff member. Please consider taking this role, and if you feel called to do so, please see either Bill Shaffer or Father Bill to express interest
- NO MEETING UNTIL THE FALL: Our scheduled June meeting will not occur as planned
- Bill will summarize the discussion points we have had this past year and send that as a separate document for all to review
- We concluded with prayer

Hunger Center – Matt Rawlings

No response from Catholic Charities from our MOU.

An incident occurred a couple months ago (possibly March 23rd or 28th). A man was walking his dog by the underpass and was accosted. He ran toward the Greek Orthodox Church. The Wellness House took him in and the man who followed him and his friend on a bicycle took off. This same man attempted to break into the Elliot at another point. He was arrested and released and is waiting for his court date. Fr. Bill is having a meeting soon with the 2nd district police captain.

Question about the Executive Committee meeting to brainstorm ideas about the MOU. A date will be set in the near future.

Question about the church getting reimbursed for the utilities, trash removal etc. We have not received any reimbursements yet.

Matt proposed he contact Fredy Robles about changing the days closed to Saturday and Sunday instead of Friday and Saturday.

Dave D. moved that Matt contact Fredy Rubles, Bonnie seconded – motion passed.

Parish Cupboard and Closet Update- Maria Boyer

- We served 950 guests in February, 1,192 in March and 1074 guests in the month of April.
- We registered 193 new guests in February, 201 in March and 175 new guests in the month of April.

As you can see, we continue to grow and are now serving over 1,000 guests monthly. This keeps our core volunteers very busy with day-to-day operations of sorting and stocking the cupboard and closet. Speaking of volunteers, we are becoming the “cool place” to volunteer! Anthony has been very helpful in keeping in touch with the organizations that come to help. In addition, we have a number of families and individuals who come on a regular basis. We now have dedicated interpreters for our Spanish-speaking guests.

We continue to seek outside sources of donations and funding to keep our parish ministry going. Community West Foundation came through for us again this year with a grant. Anthony and I received the checks in March at their annual reception for grant recipients. We have also been blessed to have benefactors who are willing to step up to represent our ministry to their places of work, parishes and communities.

Earlier this year, we received a grant from the St. Mary Seminary Outreach Fund, which included money for an AED for the school building. It was purchased recently and installed in the hallway of the first floor. This really is a needed addition to our parish campus, as it provides a second AED to complement the one housed in the church. An added benefit is that Rainbow camp will no longer need to bring the AED over from the church daily during camp hours.

Looking ahead, our 2nd Annual Fall Fundraiser, “Help Us Help Others”, is in preliminary stages of planning and will include food, fun and fellowship once again to benefit the Community Cupboard and Closet. We would appreciate the support of the Parish

Pastoral Council and will continue to look for outside donors and benefactors to support this effort.

As always, please keep this parish ministry in your prayers.

Maria proposed council approve moving forward with 2nd Annual Fall Fundraiser for the Community Cupboard and Closet.

Maria moved, Deacon Chris seconded – motion passed

Ministry to the Deaf –Jeannie Rawlings

1. The 1st Saturday of May the Signing Choir had a beautiful concert. They will be taking a break this summer and then come back in the fall to practice for fall and Christmas performances.
2. Members of the Deaf community recently attended the ICDA Midwest Conference near Chicago.
3. Mary Rosary Guild will have a May crowning this Sunday and have a meeting after Mass.
4. The CCDC will have a general membership meeting first Sunday of June.
5. Signing Choir will perform at the Tremont Arts September 21 and 22nd

New Business:

1. **Church Landscaping** – 2 pine trees around the front steps. Brian is looking to get a lock over the spigot. Brian proposed removing the pine trees in the front. He also proposed putting a fence around the air conditioning unit on the side and removing arborvitae.

Brian moved, Calvin seconded – motion passed for the tree removal. Motion amended to include a feasibility study of fencing off the air conditioner and removing of the arborvitae.

Fr. Bill mentioned a Buildings and Grounds committee is needed.

2. **The Structure of Parish Council** - we are looking to refresh the council with new voices and new ideas. New structure would begin July 2025. We will announce it at the next 2 weekends for people to join the committee. We are looking for 2 from outside the council and 2 from within (Maria, Brian, Lin and Calvin).
3. **Stewardship** –please read the document, as it encompasses three points - Time, Talent and Treasure

With Council approval, Matt will collect information about stewardship and come up with an outline of how we should proceed and report back at next meeting. Council approved.

Old Business:

1. **Church Lighting** – Ron Friedman – public spaces should have 20 lumens – he will work out the specs and write a report for the parish.
2. **Wheelchair van** – Bob attended the Zoom meeting – once we get the letter about the grant for \$62,000 we can purchase.
3. **Elevator** – the documents have been submitted for the soundness of the building to the Diocese and they are reviewing our documents.

Fr. Bill –

1. The Diocese went back to having Deaneries – Our dean is Fr. Roach.
2. We are in an ongoing conversation about the CCDC – the Bishop told Fr. Bill about a month ago, that they are a parish organization that comes under the Administrator of the parish. Today Fr. Bill called and the letter is going out with Bishop's signature. Fr. Mamich, Fr. Bill and leadership of CCDC will have one more meeting to come to an understanding.

Closing Prayer – Bill Shaffer

Next meeting – June 17, 2024

Adjournment-

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Boyer