

St. Augustine Church
Parish Council Meeting
August 21, 2023
7p.m.

Attendance: Bonnie Robertson, Dave Dilyn, Maria Boyer, Matt Rawlings, Theresa Ortiz, Brian Thaxton, Robin McMarlin, Fr. Ben, Jeannie Rawlings, Lin Janson, Bob Duda, Deacon Chris, Fr. Bill, Calvin White, Bill Schaffer, John Kowalchik, Ed Zubek, Jo Ann Whigham, Mary Jo Micili, Jennifer Wehit

Excused: Dorothy Barr

Opening Prayer: Dave Dilyn

Rainbow Camp- Matt Rawlings
From Jessica Neuhart

We had a very successful 5 weeks of Rainbow Camp wrap up the last week of July. Feedback from staff, parents, and campers all show the success of our program in impacting the lives of young people. We had roughly 105 enrolled campers this year and all feedback we received about our program and the camper/staff experience was highly positive. Campers went swimming weekly, took three field trips, and participated in a variety of activities including Arts and Crafts, Sports, and ASL class. We are excited about continuing to build our program and are so thankful for the support and generosity from the various donors that allow our program to have such success.

PSR Program – Matt Rawlings
From Jessica Neuhart

After gathering responses to a parent survey, it has been determined that PSR sessions will now take place on Sundays in between the 8:30 am and 11:00 am liturgies. Sessions will be held from 9:30-10:30 am beginning on September 24 and we are still desperately in need of volunteers to help teach weekly classes. If you or someone you know may be interested in being a catechist, please have them contact me via email. In addition, if you know anyone interested in finding a PSR program for their children, they can register by following the link on the parish website.

Music Director Report – Bill Schaffer

Bill feels very pleasant and welcomed here.

The Bell Choir is being resurrected and will start this week.

He is interested in starting a Children's Choir in conjunction with Pilgrim Church, which should be a real collaboration!

Lin commented that Bill has been wonderful in thinking outside the box to engage and increase the vibrancy of our parish.

Fr. Bill also commented on the great job Bill has been doing – kudos to Bill!

The Rectory- Ed Zubek

The drywall is up and they have kept some of the nice architectural features. Colors have been picked out for the walls and they are ready to begin painting. Hopefully, the Rectory will be finished in the next couple months.

Roof/School Building – Brian Thaxton

At the end of August DunRite Roofing will have a start date and hopefully be finished by end of September on the roof of the school building.

Koon will do the tuck-pointing on the two worst sides of the school building and also that is scheduled for completion by end of September.

Parish Cupboard and Closet Update- Maria Boyer

Highlights by the Numbers:

- We served 1213 families in the month of July. That is an increase of almost 200 from June.
- On August 19th we set a record of 182 families served in one day. That equates to over 2,700 items of food and household supplies in just one day.
- We registered 262 new families in the month of July.

We continue to grow and serve more families each month. We are blessed with faithful volunteers but are always in need of additional help. Please consider volunteering. During weekdays we are sorting and hanging clothes if you would like to do some behind the scenes work.

We are also always looking for ways to fund our parish ministry. To that end, we are holding our first annual fundraiser in November. We are hoping to tap into new friends of our ministry and raise awareness of the good work we do here! Our goal is to raise \$20,000 – please pray for us! The parish council approved this fundraiser.

We are now again accepting clothing for women, men and especially children. However, please be mindful of our volunteers and space out your donations so as not to cause a backlog of sorting for them. We are limited as to storage space and try to get donations right out in the closet as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support – St. Augustine’s now runs the largest independent food and clothing ministry in northeast Ohio. The 2nd largest, the West Side Catholic Center, served almost 5,000 families at their food pantry in all of 2022. We have served over 6,000 families in the first 7 and one half months of 2023.

Report on the Hunger Center – Matt Rawlings

They are closed on Fridays and Saturdays until further notice.

Matt has not received a response from Fredy Robles after numerous contacts.

He is disappointed that there has been no response.

New Business:

A gentleman was interested in purchasing the organ that is on the floor of the church. We no longer use it and Bill approved this sale. The parish council approved this sale.

The NOACA (Northeast Ohio Area wide Coordinating Agency) has a grant program. We are applying for two vehicles that are handicapped accessible and we need to have parish council approval – the organization pays 80% of the cost and we would have to pay around \$16,000 per vehicle. Calvin motioned and Dave seconded to approve this purchase. The parish council approved. The two vans we currently own would be sold.

There was a question about Fr. Bill remaining Administrator of our parish for over two years. Calvin motioned for the parish council to write a letter to the Bishop asking for him to appoint Fr. Bill as the Pastor. Bonnie seconded. Parish Council approved.

There was a question about the announcements at the end of Mass. They would like to review events that we have had. Just a few comments about the event and this would an opportunity to support our events.

Matt will create a Drop box for the Parish Council so we can have the documents online going forward.

Matt has a list of meetings days and times for Parish Council and Finance Council.

Ministry to the Deaf – Jeannie Rawlings

The Signing Choir has two performances coming up. They have moved their practices to Thursdays.

The Mary Rosary Guild will come back from summer break and have a meeting in September.

The Liturgical Committee has not yet met and that is a concern to the Deaf.

Bill commented he has experience running a Liturgical Committee and Parish Council approved! See Bill if interested in this Committee.

The former dining room is now a conference room.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes- Maria Boyer

Dave motioned, Calvin seconded, Parish Council approved.

Closing Prayer – Dave Dilyn

Adjournment-8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Boyer