

**St. Augustine Church
Parish Council Meeting
November 20, 2023
7p.m.**

Attendance: Bonnie Robertson, Dave Dylun, Maria Boyer, Robin McMarlin, Fr. Ben, Jeannie Rawlings, Bob Duda, Fr. Bill, Bill Shaffer, Jo Ann Whigham, Matt Rawlings, Ed Zubek, Shaemus, Dorothy Barr, Joe Barr, Lin Janson, Brian Thaxton, Tom Smith, Jeannie Rawlings

Excused: Deacon Chris

Opening Prayer: Our Father

Approval of Minutes- no changes

PSR Program – no report

Music Director Report – Bill Shaffer

4th Sunday of Advent Mass schedule -

Saturday 4:15

Sunday -10 a.m.

Christmas Eve - 4 p.m., 9 p.m.

Christmas Day - 10 a.m.

Liturgy Committee Report – Bill Shaffer

Liturgy Committee Notes October 2023, 7pm:

- Introduction of new attendees
- Brief overview of the role and function of the liturgy committee
- Review of September meeting
- New Business:
 - Continued discussions about “confusion in the sanctuary”
 - Suggestions of mandatory training/re-training of interpreters and lectors with the priests present
 - Clarification of post-communion protocol, specifically that the EM’s can leave the precious blood in the cup and place it on the credence table and immediately leave the altar area, was made by Father Ben. Many were unaware of this change.
 - Concerns for the deaf community were raised:
 - Homilies - tough to understand subtle nuances and/or language used by priests. Suggestions were to be able to have interpreters see the homily ahead of time to work out how to convey the message more effectively. Second suggestion is to have the homilies typed and available to read for all by placing them on the website
 - To benefit both the hearing and the deaf community, a

simple announcement should be added both to the bulletin (in a box) and at the beginning of every mass which includes the sitting/standing procedures for that mass (for example, NOT standing for the Gloria or the Gospel Reading at the 11am mass would alleviate confusion for visiting Catholics). Also suggested is for the presiding priest to say “stay seated” or “please stand” before continuing the liturgy.

■ Recognition of the contributions of the deaf community at mass - while a number of people are recognized currently, there is not a reference or a thank you to the signing choir or to the interpreters/responders for the 11am mass. Bill also pointed out that the musicians are not thanked either, and that if we have room to put the EM's, priests, deacon, and lectors in the bulletin, we can also include the signing choir, the musicians, ushers, and anyone else who regularly participates in the mass.

Liturgy Committee Notes November 13th 2024:

- Old Business discussion centered on Eucharistic Ministers and their roles and responsibilities. Dave Dilyn will print up an instructional document that will be distributed to all Eucharistic Ministers and placed in the church to be seen by all, starting in Advent
- Mass schedule is now set for Advent IV, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The schedule is as follows:
 - Saturday, December 23rd, 4:15 pm Vigil
 - Sunday, December 24th, 10:00 am Mass
 - Sunday, December 24th, 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
 - Sunday, December 24th, 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
 - Monday, December 25th, 10:00 am Christmas Day Mass
- A brief discussion was had about the lighting in the sanctuary, the ambo and the church itself. A formal request to look into this will be made to Parish Council.
- Alternative readings for the deaf community were discussed at length, with Robin McMarlin presenting a different version of the readings for all to see, hear and interpret. A trial basis for these readings will begin in Advent.

Roof/School Building – Bob Duda

The roof on the school building is complete. Tuck -pointing of the whole building will be done by the end of the year.

The Rectory- Ed Zubek

Carpeting is going in on the upper floors and woodwork is going in. Completion deadline is December 4th.

Parish Cupboard and Closet Update- Maria Boyer

Highlights by the Numbers:

- We served 1212 families in the month of September and 826 families in the month of October. The decrease is due to reducing hours to just Saturdays.
- We registered 231 new families in September and 162 new families in the month of October. Again this is due to reduced hours.

We are blessed with faithful volunteers but we are in **desperate** need of additional help.

Please consider volunteering **or asking family or friends if they would like to volunteer**. During weekdays we are sorting and hanging clothes if you would like to do some behind the scenes work.

Without volunteers, we would not be able to fulfill the mission of this parish ministry.

We hosted a site visit earlier this month from the Catholic Community Foundation, giving us an opportunity to “spread our story” and increase awareness of our parish ministry. The need for food and clothing assistance is growing ever greater and providing these items in a dignified and respectful way is the heart of our ministry. We are hopeful the grant makers feel the same way after touring our facilities and talking about the lives we are changing.

When groups cannot come to us, Deacon Chris takes his talk on the road. In the past few months he has spoken to the Rotary Club of Cleveland, the Polish Legion of American Vets and the St. Ambrose November Soup Supper, as well as several Councils of the Knights of Columbus, telling them the story of our Cupboard and Closet.

If you would like to help spread our story, we are available to help you form your own “elevator speech” a 30-60 second sound bite to let your friends, family and work colleagues know about the good your parish is doing with this ministry!

Fundraiser Report – Deacon Chris – reported by Matt Rawlings

On November 11th we held our first annual Community Cupboard and Closet fundraiser with the promise we would be extending our target market **beyond** the parish.

Details Are as Follows:

Number of tickets sold: **155**

Number of raffle baskets **47**

Number of sideboards: **2**

Number of 50/50: **1**
Number of merchant donors **67**
Cost of the Venue: **\$4,400**

We promised an evening of fun and fellowship and I am confident we delivered. The evening went very well, and everyone had a very nice time. The venue worked out perfectly and the food was well received. The event manager, from her past experience, was convinced we would never get anywhere near 150 attendees, but we still managed to exceed that number. The highlight of the event was all the beautiful raffle baskets the team spent the last several months putting in countless hours to gather. We also gave away a number of door prizes starting with the veterans in attendance, because we wanted to make sure to recognize, and honor our Veteran's on Veterans Day.

We held true to our initial promise that we would **not** be hitting up our usual group of parish donors. For those of you who were able to attend, there were, of course, some of our regular parishioners; but the **vast** majority of attendees had no prior connection to St. Augustine until that evening. We worked very hard to tap into a new cadre of people and raise awareness of our ministry outside of the parish to expand our network and in this endeavor we were very successful.

Since the on-line ticket sales and donations go through the Parish Financial Office and Aldo has not been able to give us final, **post event** numbers yet, we currently do not have exact numbers as of this meeting. Based on the report provided by Aldo the day **before** the event, **and** the proceeds from the evening. We are looking at approximate **NET** proceeds; that is INCOME generated AFTER paying the venue (which we did that evening), of just north of \$25,000.

For the record, I personally take **ZERO** credit for the success of this event. It was the team's hard work, countless hours, late nights, and logistical planning that made the evening such a wonderful success. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated team of people who work tirelessly to serve the less fortunate in our community.

Hunger Center – there has been no communication

Ministry to the Deaf – Jeannie Rawlings

Mary Rosary Guild for the Deaf

- There was a meeting in October and Officer elections were conducted
- The New Officers are:
 - President - Jeannie Rawlings
 - Vice-President - Karen Halupnik
 - Secretary - Kate Slozar
 - Treasurer - Maria Rivera

- Welcome Party will be January 28 in the Deaf Club room following 11 AM Mass
 - Will conduct special Advent Prayer service in the Deaf Club room following 11 AM Mass on December 3 and 17 - all are welcome Cleveland Catholic Deaf Club
 - There was a meeting on November 5 and Officer and Board Members were elected
 - President - Colleen Cassidy
 - Vice-President - Michelle Lassiter
 - Secretary - Mark Franklin/Felix Teskac
 - Treasurer - Tom Smith
 - Board Members: Jeannie Rawlings, Maria Rivera, Jo Ann Maslanka Whigham
 - There was a Fall Event on October 8 where many members painted a Fall Scene picture
 - The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was November 12, it was well attended and both events were a lot of fun
 - The Annual Christmas Party is scheduled for December 10, with a theme of “ A Christmas Story”.
- St. Augustine Signing Choir
- A group of 25 dedicated volunteers both adult and children will begin their annual Christmas shows. The parish is invited to join them on Saturday December 9 @ 2 PM in St. Augustine Church for a one hour performance.
 - Other performances will be at:
 - St. Augustine Tower
 - St. Augustine Manor
 - CSJ Motherhouse
 - Sheldon House in Berea
 - Regina Health Center

New Business:

1. **New parishioner forms are available from Matt** - We are asking parish council members to be on the Membership committee, just asking us to ask people they see at church if they are registered members.

It's important for people to be registered. We are an important parish in the diocese.

It's a destination parish – people come from all over to come here, may be reluctant to join.

2. **Lighting in the church** – we would like to have a lighting engineer come in. Dave motioned Bonnie seconded that we get an estimate on this
Passed unanimously

Old Business:

Persons experiencing homelessness

A man was sleeping on the north side of the church. It began with one person sleeping on the front lawn of the church. We asked him to move to the north side of the church. It grew to 4 people sleeping there with their belongings. They were told to take their things and leave by noon last Monday (November 13) They moved to the front porch of the house next to the church (former Dave's Auto Body). But they continue to use our steps to sit on. It was decided the parish will pursue the owner of the property and see if they will work with us. There was a lot of discussion regarding this.

Closing Prayer – Dave Dilyn

Next meeting – February 26, 2024

Adjournment-8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Boyer