

Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2024  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

These minutes begin with a summary of the previous meetings leading to the establishment of the Parish Council. Based on previously received applications for Parish Council (requested by Fr. Garland), Fr. Toner selected the following people to serve on a Task Force under his guidance to reestablish the Parish Council. Members selected by Fr. Toner included Steve Thieken, Annette Schwartz, Kyle Hilgefert, Debbie Crecelius, Jason Utt, Cathy Bennett, Rob Gabel and Rachel Taylor. On September 29, 2024, the first parish council task force meeting was held. The Task Force's mission was to revise the existing Parish Council Constitution, to establish procedures around the establishment of a full Parish Council. The Council accomplished this after two separate brainstorming meetings.

New Business:

Our November 17th meeting opened with a prayer from Father Pat.

The following were in attendance, Father Pat Toner, Steve Thieken, Rachel Taylor, Rob Gabel, Annette Schwartz, Debbie Crecelius, Jason Utt, Kyle Hilgefert, and Cathy Bennett.

1. Father Pat asked if there were any concerns or comments any of us had. Annette began by saying a parishioner approached her concerning the topic of money being brought up once again after mass. We discussed how to address these types of comments/concerns. Father stated that money has only been discussed during the quarterly Impact Reports.
2. The Parish Council Constitution was reviewed and a motion by Rob Gabel was made to accept the revised constitution. It was second by Cathy Bennett. The motion passed.
3. The election of the Executive Committee took place with each member voting secretly for each position. Steve Thieken was elected the Chairperson, Rachel Taylor, Vice-Chairperson and Cathy Bennett as Secretary.
4. The Council's next order of business will be to complete the parish council by adding 4 additional members.
  - a. An announcement will be placed in the bulletin advising the need for additional members, instruction on how and when to apply as well as the time for choosing these additional members.
  - b. Existing members will speak to potential candidates and encourage them to apply with a goal of adding representatives from underrepresented groups (for example: Hispanic or other minority communities, home schooling parent, or young single parishioner, etc.).

5. Fr. Toner indicated the next Potluck dinner, on January 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a “listening session” for the Parish Council to hear from Parishioners on suggested ideas for the Parish Council to consider in future meetings. All council members should plan to attend.

6. Future council meetings will include but not be limited to various committees, clubs, individuals, and ministries attending our regularly scheduled meetings to have an open discussion (with the council listening) to their concerns and needs.

7. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month was established as the preferred day for regularly scheduled Council meetings. Adjustments to this may be made if there are conflicts with holidays. The intent is that meetings will be held each month, except for June, July, and December. If there are not sufficient topics for discussion any month, the meeting may be canceled. In that case, the cancellation will be announced in the bulletin.

8. Rob Gabel presented a topic for discussion. The Knights of Columbus created a calendar that can be purchased for \$30. The calendar comes with the possibility of winning \$50 each day of the week except Sunday. And once a month, on a special day, a possibility of winning \$100 based on the random selection of a number. The question for Council was if it would be acceptable to advertise for the purchase of this calendar in the Parish Bulletin. The Council reached a consensus opinion that such a calendar is not promoting gambling and would be appropriate to advertise.

Respectfully submitted:  
Cathy Bennett, Secretary  
11/25/24