

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2023
7:00 pm

Attending:

Fr. Ernest, Katie Johnson, Arlene Masters, Cathy Jones, Alex Clark, Erin Drumm, Beverly Freed, Lois Ann Guschke, Angel Martinez, Mally Mason, Chit Peters, John Thompson

Absent:

Melissa Pakurar, Tom Bahr, Chris Colohan, Meera Del Favero, Carl Grunow, Tim Malone, Joyce Navary, Melisa Phillingane

Arlene Masters, presiding along with Cathy Jones as new co-chairpersons, opened the meeting by leading the group in prayer.

Angel Martinez motioned to approve the May 18 minutes as submitted, and this was seconded by Alex Clark.

Baptismal Font Update

Angel Martinez gave a detailed update on the status of the baptismal font renovation. There were some issues due to a higher than anticipated water table. The previous construction method had to be modified to address this water issue. Project is expected to be completed in November.

Memory Garden Update

Cathy Jones reported that this project was well received by parishioners. There were 106 bricks sold. The order has been sent to the vendor, who will send back the proof. We will announce to parishioners when it is available for review. Once approved, it should take about 30 days to receive the completed bricks. We can expand up to 125 bricks in the space currently laid out. Beyond that number, we will need to review the landscaping plan.

Centennial Planning Update

Alex Clark and Katie Johnson have been discussing the 2025 Centennial celebration. Alex visited with a couple who are long-time members of the parish for ideas and suggestions. They also helped generate a list of individual contacts, along with leaders of the Knights and Catholic Daughters. July 2025 is the 100th anniversary of St. Ann's Church, and the Feast Day for St. Ann is celebrated on July 26, which is on a Saturday in 2025. That date was mentioned as a consideration. Bishop Kneestout needs to be contacted. Alex wants to have interview segments, photos with comments, etc., in an interactive digitalized format to view in the Parish Hall during the event. He also hopes to have a museum-type display with historical documents and artifacts. Original parishioners will be called upon to provide information about the early years and history of the building. With Alex's interest in the historical side of the celebration and Katie's in the gathering and prayer aspects, they will get together to begin forming a Centennial Committee composed of many parishioners.

Worship Space Crucifix Update

Erin Drumm reported that this committee (Erin, Katie, and John Thompson) continues to be active with this project. They are meeting with Fr. Ernest since the donor wants his opinion before giving any more information. In the meantime, they have been talking with two parishioners with woodworking experience about building a cross. Due to the weight of the corpus, the cross needs to be built permanently in a stand (like a stair step). They also suggested retractable wheels, hidden behind a door. The goal is a simple cross with a traditional corpus. Katie and Erin will continue researching

corpus possibilities from recommended sources with previously used items being offered for sale to other churches. Aesthetically, we are looking for a carved wooden one. If that is not successful and new ones are considered, Mally Mason suggested contacting the VCU School of the Arts to see if there is interest in creating one. This project is a continuing work in progress.

Leaking Roof Update

Melissa Pakurar was not available for this meeting. Roof update delayed until October meeting.

New Proposal: International Food Festival

Mally would like to see St. Ann's host an annual International Food Festival representing the many cultures in our area. She has participated in these events in other areas and feels it would be an opportunity to learn more about and share diverse heritages. Mally commented that a food event can be successful as a money-making effort as well. Chit Peters suggested that this could be initiated as part of the Centennial event with the goal of having it become an annual event. Alex felt like it could be incorporated into the Centennial celebration and would welcome Mally as part of that committee.

Wrap-Up Comments

Liaison: Beverly Freed reminded Council members to follow up with their liaison contacts quarterly (January, April, July, October) and report back at next month's meeting.

Organ: Beverly has spoken with Chris Colohan about the organ. It is old, and parts for repair are not available. She suggested that it be removed to provide more space for that area.

Suggestion Box: Beverly requested that "Suggestion Box Report" be included as part of all agendas to assure that it stays up to date.

Parish Council Meeting Schedule: Beverly feels that the Council should hold meetings 12 months a year. She stated that we are here to support Fr. Ernest and to jump start other things. Continuity is important. Angel added that we need more action and not to get hung up at the planning stage. Even when budget constrained, things can get done. Arlene agreed that we can get things accomplished but there must be community involvement.

Closing

Father Ernest led the closing prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19.