

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARK
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
 October 28, 2021

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Fr. Anthony Mpungu, Pastor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ricky Andrade		Linda Major Parish Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fe Guzman, Religious Formation		Hank Harzold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon John Kren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sharon Katzman, Religious Formation		David Fritsch			
Joyce Gridley, Justice and Peace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steven Schlossberg			
Mike Johnson, Liturgy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lacy Favila	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Parish Secretary Kathryn Flannigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael King- Parishioner-At Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Hank 6:00pm: Opening Prayer

I. Everyday Stewardship-

- a. Parish Council was assigned readings in Everyday Stewardship Book and members of the council shared particular excerpts that stood out to them in a meaningful way.
Fr. Anthony shared his reflection as well and talked about meeting the author of the book at the recent convocation.

II. Standing Items

- a. Review of Committee reports
 - i. **Liturgy-Deacon Mike:** All Saints Day/All Souls Day Masses coming up Monday and Tuesday at 830am and 7pm. Thursday is Adoration; there is a link on our website to sign up.
 - ii. **Building and Grounds- Deacon John:** Brian informed me the parking lot will be paved the week of the 15th of November. The Knights are moving the tree trailer on the 19th and setting up on the 20th. Trees will hopefully arrive on the 24th. We are working on replacing burnt bulbs in the sanctuary.
Mike King: Will the parking lot project affect parking?
Deacon John: We don't have the layout yet so we will let you know.
Fr: The globe lights in the Great Hall seem dark compared to the other areas in the church. Should we make it brighter?
Deacon John: We can look at upping the voltage in the bulbs as a start.
 - iii. **Parish Life- Linda:** Fe asked me if could get our Samaritan Meals team to set up for Teen Formation by prepping snacks for them. We are going to

help the Knights with Monte Carlo Night in Jan. We are happy to partner with other ministries and if you need Parish Life to help you for an event, please reach out to us.

- iv. **Justice & Peace- Joyce:** Our Food Pantry is starting to boom as government and local assistance is coming to an end. In October we served about 400 people. We are starting to have trouble obtaining the bulk food we need to keep the pantry stocked. We continue to have people sign up for Spiritual Adoption. We will be helping 3 Afghan families this Holiday season. The Diocese has partnered with Commonwealth Catholic Charities and there are several options to choose from.
Mike King: Are we doing the Thanksgiving donations again this year?
Joyce: We are doing gift cards like we did in 2020, which was very well received and a lot easier to coordinate. It is advertized in the bulletin, facebook, and on the TV we have a slide. There is also a display in the commons. For Christmas, we are going to do an Angel Tree, but it will be specifically requesting toys for youth to help bridge the age gap as older adults were taking advantage. We will also be providing gift cards.

b. Calendar

- i. For the December 3rd Potluck, PC members agreed on sending out potluck sign up the 16th of November for circulation.
- ii. Current plan is still to meet in person and our next council meeting is January 27th.

c. Old Business

- i. Bio for Web Page
 - 1. Joyce had her Bio for website which Hank read to the group as example for others. Once everyone completes their bio, they can send to Hank and Hank will forward to Brian for St Mark website. Fr. made a point to keep some personal information off of the bios as hackers are so capable of mishandling public information.
- ii. Ministry Summary
 - 1. Liturgy, Parish Life, and Justice and Peace are updated.

III. Fr Anthony Time

- a. Thank you to you all for your leadership. It's the last week in the month of October. I had a wonderful time at convocation as we came together to reconnect and celebrate anniversaries. We all needed it. In the last two years we have had death, losses, and personal life struggles including socio economic, physical, and mental stresses. We are trying to rise above and recover. I came up with a way to end this liturgical year. 'With Faith Renewed, We Grow.' The church is part of our life, every day you see signs on the road, so we added a sign to let people know our church is open and we want people to come back. People may still have a fear of getting sick, but they may also be using it as an excuse not to get involved. For our new members, how can we reignite them to commit? Maybe in February, we can have a get together with new members so we can identify them and welcome them. We want them to be aware that we are here and to get involved within the parish. In Religious Formation we are trying to find a way for parents to fully participate instead of thinking they can drop the kids off and go about their day. The parents need to stay connected or else once a child is confirmed; they may not be dedicated to the church after that. Let us continue to find ideas on how to reach out to these parents. We will be

celebrating Simbang Gabi this year. We really need to showcase this event this year because it represents a lot of our parish community. We have an end of the year get together for Parish Council. It is nice to share experiences of joy and we are doing the best we can with that. Thank you to the volunteers who are the heart and soul of our parish. Their faith is truly at work.

Deacon Mike: Have you received any direction on participation in the Synod?

Fr: It is being introduced in parts until 2023. The Synod is like ringing an alarm. Is the Church today still relevant? After all we have gone through, it is important to say we can converse about the Church we want to see. 'Synodality' –the synod on marriage, family, evangelization. It is time to work together. We must know who and how to identify. We will get more information as it trickles down. Keep your ears open. Does the Church need to have a better view? It will begin to take shape. Christ yesterday, today, and tomorrow-do we need to change or does society need to change? We have to find our identity. Today I was part of the 'Pastoral Advisory Committee' meeting. It starts at the top with the Bishop, Vicar General, Chancellor, CFO, and Vicar of Clergy. These are the top positions and the structure of the Diocese as an organization. We as priests are here to share our representation as to what is happening on the ground. If we want the Church to succeed in 20 years, what do we need to do now? First, we need Priests. When you support the priests, you support the ministry of the priest. Then, we need social outreach/formation. As the Church we are here to serve people and humanity. That is why we take up causes that uplift human dignity. Third, we need schools. Since Church is the foundation, we need to take care of our youth.

Hank: Us as Parish Council, being that visionary is what 'Called to Serve' calls us to be. If we have words but no absolutes, the vision doesn't always pull through.

- b. Ministry Fair 33rd Sunday: Fr-Instead of the fair we are doing the commitment card. What am I committing to? We will have the cards in the pews and people can fill it out and put in the basket as their offering. We will have ministry leaders handing them out and we will recite the prayer. (Kathryn to distribute the prayer to council.

Hank: We should give people a heads up of what is to come.

Fr: The 32d Sunday will be that day. Would any of our staff want to come up and speak about their personal story? We could have someone the next couple of weekends.

Deacon John: We also need a description of the ministries so people know what the job is, what to sign up for.

Closing prayer led by Fr Anthony: at 7:37pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kathryn Flannigan