

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2024
7:00 pm

Attending:

Fr. Ernest, Katie Johnson, Melissa Pakurar, Arlene Masters, Cathy Jones, Tom Bahr, Alex Clark, Chris Colohan, Erin Drumm, Lois Ann Guschke, Chit Peters, Melisa Phillingane

Absent:

Meera Del Favero, Joyce Navary, John Thompson

Arlene Masters led the group in the opening prayer.

Ministry Fair

Arlene asked the group for their assessment of the Ministry Fair which was held the weekend of November 2 and 3. Response for the Food Pantry, PB&J Ministry, and Hospitality was very positive. There was some feedback, however, noting that the fair felt rushed and overwhelming. Some said that more communication was needed as well as additional time to get materials together. The consensus is to hold this annually, during the same weekend each year. The plan is for the first weekend in October to coincide with Hospitality Sunday. While this date will be late for Christian Formation recruiting, the staff indicated that can be done earlier.

To emphasize the different ministries that are active at St. Ann's, a suggestion was made to occasionally highlight different ministries in the bulletin. Ministry fliers are also available in the literature rack in the Commons.

Some ministry groups have asked if there is a space to store their displays from year to year. Melissa Pakurar said a space could be designated in the old kitchen.

Parish Directory

The committee is waiting to submit the directory to the printer so that some initial 100th anniversary photos can be included (e.g., November 22 parish Thanksgiving dinner, November 23 Mass with Bishop Knestout). Once submitted, it should be ready in about 8-10 weeks (early spring estimate).

Leaking Roof Update

Melissa Pakurar reported that the drawings for the roof repair are 100% complete and at the diocesan-approved contractor for bids.

Cemetery Update

Diocesan approval has been received for an additional columbarium at St. Ann's cemetery. The new columbarium will be two-sided and have 48 spaces. It will be placed across from the present one and to one side to have space for an additional one in the future. The trees have been trimmed, and the footing will be scheduled. Melisa Phillingane would like to have a standard recurring announcement in the bulletin regarding St. Ann's cemetery. Melissa Pakurar requested that the cemetery committee provide the bulletin write-up.

Centennial Celebration Update

Katie reported a good response from the centennial ornaments (about 200 at this time). Our kick-off weekend begins with a parish Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, November 22, followed by Bishop Knestout's visit to celebrate Mass on Saturday, November 23, the Feast of Christ the King. The

Catholic Virginian plans to do an article on St. Ann's 100th year celebration. The next events will be after Advent and Christmas.

Tree of Life

Consideration is being given to selling leaves again for the Tree of Life on the wall in the Commons. The original purpose of the tree was to pay down the debt for the building. Additional "leaves" would keep that same intent.

Ambo Announcements

Arlene has spoken with Fr. Ernest about periodically having a "Parish Council Update" ambo announcement to address recurring questions that parishioners have and to allow some Parish Council visibility. These would be short updates to current questions such as "when will the directory be ready", "what's taking so long with the ceiling repair", and "are we getting a Crucifix". It could also be an opportunity to encourage people to register with the parish.

Welcome Package

Arlene asked about a welcome package for new parishioners. Katie said that there is one, but it has not been updated since Covid. She would like to pass that task to Parish Council for updates. Melissa Pakurar said that there is a new registration form, which is the same across the diocese.

Liaison List

There are a few council members listed on the liaison list that are no longer serving. The list needs to be reviewed and updated.

Blessing of Memorial Bricks

Fr. Ernest will bless the new memorial bricks after each Mass the weekend of January 11-12, 2025.

Suggestion Box

Two suggestions were submitted and reviewed. The ones with contact information will be addressed with the original submitter.

Diocesan Update

Fr. Ernest reported information from the Diocesan meeting. The audit of our financial reports showed that our records are in compliance. There are some upcoming legal/corporate structure changes across the diocese which will affect the business/operational side of the parish. The year 2025 is a Jubilee year and will begin on December 24, 2024. The Great Jubilee will be from 2030 - 2033. The Synod in January will include Hispanic/ethnic discussion, intergenerational support (how to engage younger generations), formation education, and stewardship. Virginia Pro-Life Day is scheduled for January 29.

New Program Opportunity

Katie presented information about an opportunity that is being offered to parishes, Pathways To A Thriving Parish. This is a 3-year program focused on leadership formation using a cohort model of 8-12 team members. The team would also meet periodically with cohorts from other nearby parishes. All services involved in this project are covered by a grant, but participation must be confirmed in December.

Closing

Fr. Ernest led the group in closing prayer.

There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2025.