

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 - 6:30 PM

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish Hall

Attendees: Gabrielle Andrea, Father James Belogi, Christine Cioffi, Justine Crevatas, Bob DiCostanzo, Joan Duda, Debbie Fontes, Chris Wertman, Gloria Towle-Hilt, Teshia Gutchell, Rich Leet, Fran Mitchell, Deacon Tom, Nancy Moscheo, Julius Pasquariello, Thomas Poznanski, Alyssa Sarrosa, Donna Simone, Kelly Sloan, Joanne Tuchovsky, Anna Hartz.

Excused: Kathleen Riordan, Betsy Glasser, Joanne Russell, Father Anthony Onu.

Unexcused:

Debbie Fontes presided over the meeting which began at 6:34 pm.

Welcome - Debbie Fontes

Opening Prayer- Read by Chris Wertman

1.) Review of November meeting minutes:

Motion to approve minutes by Anna Hartz seconded by Teshia Gutchell.

2.) Ministry Updates:

Prayer and Worship – SGA (Joanne T.) *Attachment 1*

- Increased attendance at All Souls Day mass, Thanksgiving Day mass (which included all parishes this year), The Immaculate Conception mass, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses.
- There is a need for more ministers in all categories: Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers.
- SGA would like to visit the option of asking SMS ministers if they would like to serve at the SGA 5:30 masses for the various Holy Days of Obligation and other special masses.

Prayer and Worship - SMS (Joan Duda)

- The first weekend of the month there will be a ministry spotlight for the various ministries after masses to increase involvement.
- Began this weekend 1/4 & 1/5 with Eucharistic Ministries.
- 6 people displayed interest and 4 are new Eucharistic Ministers.
- Lectors will be the spotlight ministry for February.
- Christmas masses were well attended—including the 10PM mass.
- Attendance seemed to be back to pre-COVID levels.
- The 10PM Christmas mass did not have Ushers, so next year there will be a sign up sheet.

December Christian Service Reports: (Gloria Towle-Hilt and Anna Hartz, Teshia Gutchell)

- The “Say Thanks By Giving” food drive in November was incredible and filled the pantries.
- The food pantry had a surplus to donate to St. Johns and St. Ann’s.
- The December Red Cross Blood Drive had 85 donors, and was a success.
- The next blood drive will be February 17th.
- The SGA food drive was a massive success.
- There will be no hospitality Sunday for the month of February, per request of Teshia Gutchell. Hospitality will resume on the second Sunday of March, and will be hosted by the Women’s Club. The schedule for future Hospitality Sundays has been adjusted accordingly.

Family Promise- Anna

- 2 families were hosted the first week of December. One family graduated the program the week after staying with us and has successfully moved into their own apartment.
- The next two families will be hosted by SGA January 19th -26th. There will be a collection of gift cards for the January host week.

Doors to the Future fundraiser

- Doors to the Future fundraiser was a success.

Christ Child Bake Sale

- The bake sale did very well, generating \$2,294 profit, which is the best yet.

Christ Child Shopping Extravaganza

- This year was the best that the event has done yet, generating just under \$1,000. The event was a success and raised awareness for the Christ Child Society.
- Expanding number of vendors is planned for next year.

3.) Old Business:

- Review of Diocesan Appeal discussion- What has been done about the revitalization of finance committees?
- SGA Finance Council does have a meeting scheduled.
- SMS is working on getting a meeting time together.
- Nothing has been done yet as far as organizing and scheduling education of the Diocesan Appeal for the parish members.
- The discussion will be followed up in February.
- Not all parishioners receive the Diocesan Appeal materials in the mail unless they have donated in the past (This changed during COVID).

- All council members in agreement that education is the most important part of increasing appeal funding. The annual Diocesan Appeal runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year.
- Together we set a goal for after Easter/ early spring to begin education within the parishes and push for donations during mass.

4.) New Business:

- There was a discussion of where the Parish Council Minutes should be posted at SMS. There used to be a spot for meeting minutes to be posted on the bulletin board.
- Minutes must be sent to Christine to be printed and put in the folder to be posted at the church.
- It was proposed to add a link on the website with meeting minutes, schedule, and agenda of the Pastoral Council.

5.) Community Events

- Women's Club Craft Fair was a success.
- Santa Claus was a big hit at Family Promise.

6.) Pastor's Comments- Father Jim

- Christmas masses went very well, and the mass schedule accommodated the needs of the parishioners.
- Father Onu is having a wonderful time in Nigeria.
- Father Jim requested prayers for Father Morty for his health

7.) Welcome for New Youth Representative

Donna Simone introduced our new Youth Member for SMS, Alyssa Sarrosa. Welcome Alyssa!

8.) Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gloria Towle Hilt , second by Nancy Moscheo.

9.) Closing Prayer was read by Nancy Moscheo and everyone.

Meeting conclude 7:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Wertman

Final Edits were approved February 4th, 2025 during the February Pastoral Council meeting.

ATTACHMENT 1

Christopher

Report to the Pastoral Council from the Prayer & Worship Committee of St. Gabriel the Archangel Jan. 7, 2025

Our group reviewed Mass attendance of All Saint's Day, All Souls' Day, Thanksgiving, The Immaculate Conception, Christmas Eve, Day, and the Solemnity of Mary.

There was an increase in attendance for all masses except All Souls' Day; that was the same in 2023 and 2024 [65].

All Saint's and All Souls' Day Masses.

- All Saint's Day; in 2023 - 202 and in 2024 there were 253
- All Souls' Day Mass had 65 in attendance in 2023 and 2024.
However, in 2023 there were 24 deceased from our parish and in 2024 we had 15.
More parishioners attended that did not have anyone deceased in that year.
We attribute it to an increase of information regarding the mass.
- Thanksgiving Day mass also saw an increase from 75 in 2023 to 87 in 2024.
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary saw an increase in attendance from 195 in 2023 to 259 in 2024.
- The Mass times for the Immaculate Conception were the same in both years; 12:15 and 5:30 PM.

The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses also saw an increase in attendance.

- Christmas Eve in 2023 was 275 and in 2024 was 300
- Christmas Day Mass in 2023 was 210 and in 2024 was 225
- The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God mass had an attendance of 177 in 2024 and 302 in 2025.

A detailed breakdown will be given to Fr. Belogi.

Ministers:

There is a need for more ministers in every category; lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers.

We're seeing an increase in attendance overall but need to focus on increasing the number of ministers to serve at mass. Ministers have been very generous in serving both 12:15 and 5:30 pm Masses. Want to visit the option of asking SMS ministers if they would like to serve at the 5:30 PM masses if the need arises.

We have written up invitations in the bulletin with a short explanation of various ministries and hope parishioners will participate. We have also extended personal invitations to people we see at mass regularly.

We have been fortunate to have volunteers help us with decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Our next joint meeting with St. Madeleine Sophie Liturgy Team will be held Tuesday, January 14th at which time we will prepare for Lent and the Triduum, which will be held at St. Gabriel's this year.

