

## **St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**

October 18, 2022

### **Opening Prayers**

The Parish Council meeting opened with our traditional faith sharing and prayers. The Gospel for the upcoming weekend liturgies was read aloud and reflected on by each individual Council member and our guest presenter. Personal intercessions were prayed. We concluded Opening Prayer with collective participation in the Responsorial Psalm for the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for September 20, 2022, were approved for posting to the St. Christopher website by Parish Office Manager Dawn Bloom.

### **Centennial Updates**

#### **St. Christopher Parish Community Weekend**

Kevin Tennant presented his reflections on the successes and challenges of the Parish Community Weekend August 26 – 28<sup>th</sup>.  
(Kevin's notes are attached as Addendum A)

Discussion highlights included:

- 300+ volunteers were engaged in the weekend festivities one way or another. Parish community involvement can be expanded for more involvement by more people. Recruitment of volunteers over a longer period is anticipated to engage more people.
- Fireworks created a true spirit of excitement surrounding the weekend's celebrations.
- Sponsorships totaling \$14,000 helped defray the weekend's expenses.
- Whether the weekend should be 2 versus 3 days remains open for consideration.
- Celebrating a Parish Weekend before school reopens is a serious consideration. Parish facilities are more available before St. Christopher School reopens. Another favorable consideration for an earlier date is the burden placed on Parish maintenance staff once school resumes.

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#### **Mission Statement**

We are the people of St. Christopher Catholic Church, a Eucharistic community of faith dedicated to . . .  
**Welcome, Celebrate, Care & Grow.** . . in the image and likeness of Jesus.

Council members applauded Kevin for all the effort he, Alex DiMichele and the dedicated committee and volunteers expended to create a memorable Centennial celebration.

### Clam Bake

- The Centennial Parish Clam Bake for adults on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, after the 5 PM Mass attracted some 130 Parishioners. Those who attended enjoyed great food, good service, and a fun evening of Parish camaraderie as evidenced by their lingering into the evening well after dinner was finished.

### Belltower Beacon

- A special Centennial Edition is planned and in process now for year-end publication to highlight the year of centennial celebrations in 2022.

### **Religious Education Office Updates**

- The need for a security guard for the PSR program on Sunday mornings has been resolved. Kevin Tennant and Jeff Davis are job-sharing this responsibility.

### **Ladies Guild**

- After 4 years of serving in their leadership roles, the current Ladies Guild officers are considering an election of new officers.
- The Ladies Night Out event – after 5 years of being an ad-hoc Parish event started by women on the Parish Pastoral Council – will be transitioned to the Ladies Guild for 2023.

### **Social Concerns**

- The annual Thanksgiving food collection will take place in November to benefit St. Colman Parish families in need.
- The change of Social Concerns meetings from 1 PM to noon remains under review.
- The traditional Lenten Soup Supper needs a soup provider. Last year's chef is not available. Joe's Deli is being solicited to provide soup at cost; no commitment has been made yet. There is consideration for scheduling the Soup Supper to coincide with a prospective Parish Mission during Lent.
- The Christmas GIFT program – Giving In Faith Together – will begin collecting donations for an array of local charities November 19 – 20<sup>th</sup> till December 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> for distribution on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Youth Ministry**

- Logan Feldkamp earned and was awarded his certification as Lay Ecclesial Minister on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral.
- The J+Walkers Halloween party will be celebrated on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Young Adult Ministry**

A Halloween event is scheduled for Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Christopher.

## **Father John Update**

- Parish Mission  
A prospective Lenten Mission is being negotiated now with a targeted facilitator. Details have yet to be confirmed.
- Building Improvements  
The Parish Center HVAC system replacement is being bid now with guidance from the Diocesan office.
- Christmas and New Year's Holy Day Masses  
4 PM Christmas Eve: Church and Parish Center  
6 PM and 10 PM Christmas Eve  
10 AM and 11:30 AM Christmas Day  
The regular weekend liturgy schedule will be celebrated for New Year's weekend.

## **Parish Pastoral Council**

- Future guest speakers for forthcoming meetings are scheduled and confirmed:
  - November 2022 – Mary Meler, St. Christopher School Principal
  - January 2023 – Logan Feldkamp, St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Minister
- Father John advised that Father Anthony will be attending future Council meetings as part of his ongoing learning experience.
- Parish Council meetings remain open to Parishioner attendance as observers. To raise awareness, a promotional piece will be printed in the Parish Bulletin the weekend prior to each month's meeting; Secretary Mary Horvath will create the Bulletin announcement and forward it to Parish Office Manager Dawn Bloom to publish. Allowing time at the end of the meeting for observer remarks and/or questions was considered.
- Ongoing discussion of a Parish Council Retreat continued. Ken Szabo and Larry Murtaugh reviewed their research, and discussion ensued about potential sites and facilitators for a Council Retreat:
  - Loyola Retreat Center is a Benedictine run facility in Clinton, OH.
  - River's Edge on Rocky River Drive in Cleveland has closed.
  - Ken Fortuna, Director of Groups and Programs at the Jesuit Retreat House, has an array of dates available in 2023. The group will need to provide our own retreat facilitator.
  - Sister Margaret Mach, a Vincentian Sister of Charity in Bedford, is the former head of the Diocesan Evangelization Office, and may be available to serve in the role of retreat facilitator.

- Ken Szabo, Larry Murtaugh and Marilu Norena will continue their collective research on behalf of Council.
- Council members were reminded that items for next month's agenda can be provided to Chair Laura Hunter by the first of November.
- Council will meet to celebrate Christmas together at an evening social on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in the Rectory dining room.
- Bill Blough volunteered to lead Council in our closing prayer in November.
- **Closing Prayer and Mission Statement**  
Ken Szabo led the group in closing with a prayer. A reflection of the Parish Mission Statement concluded the meeting.
- **Next Meeting**  
Tuesday, November 15, 2022,  
7– 8:30 PM  
Parish Center  
Parishioners are welcome to attend.