

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

May 16, 2023

### **Opening Prayers**

The Parish Council meeting opened with our traditional faith sharing and prayers. The Gospel for the upcoming weekend liturgies for the Ascension of the Lord was read aloud and reflected on by each individual Council member. It was noted that the Ascension is celebrated in lieu of the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. Personal intercessions were prayed. We concluded Opening Prayer with collective participation in the Responsorial Psalm for the Ascension.

### **Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for April 18, 2023, were approved for posting to the St. Christopher website by Parish Office Manager Dawn Bloom.

### **Ministries Issues and Concerns**

#### **Religious Education Updates from St. Christopher School and PSR**

Vacation Bible School once more will be a cooperative Church effort the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> at Rocky River Presbyterian Church. Volunteers are needed.

### **Ladies Guild**

- Tai Chi in Centennial Park is set for Wednesday, June 21 – the summer solstice.
- The date for Ladies Night Out is set in October. Discussion centered on ensuring that the date is set for the Thursday night preceding NEOEA day, a school holiday, to accommodate busy teachers and Moms. 2023 NEOEA day is Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ladies Guild will participate in the upcoming SCP Weekend, August 26 – 28.

### **Social Concerns**

- Christmas in July will benefit Twice Blessed. Donations will be collected the weekends of July 8 – 9 and July 15 – 16.
- Advocacy discussions center on concerns identified by the Diocesan Social Action Office, including the Ohio death penalty vote and the issue of international food security in the Farm Bill – concerns in addition to environmental issues.
- The Social Concerns committee seeks to broaden Parish awareness, support and advocacy. Parish communications outlets are being used to give Parishioners guidance on where to get more information on various social concerns and what to do to be supportive; these include the Parish Bulletin, ***Belltower Beacon***, Facebook, and the Parish website [www.stchrisparish.com].

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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.

## SCP Weekend

- Planning for the activities and festivities during the weekend of Friday to Sunday, August 25 – 27, are moving into high gear with 101 days to go.
- An effort is underway to raise the visibility of Parish ministries at the Parish weekend. Melissa DiFini, Pastoral Minister, is reaching out to the Parish ministries now to get them engaged.

- Leadership

Leadership positions are essentially filled with the notable exception that someone with a knowledge of casino games is needed for the Games/Casino role.

- Logan Feldkamp – Carnival games
- Sharon Armstrong – Volunteer recruitment
- Nector Castro – Activities

A score of J+Walkers and PSR kids have already volunteered to help.

- Friday Fun Run

The Fun Run is morphing into a Friday night community activity to include families and kids. The bring-a-donation event will benefit Walking with Moms in Need and Sisters Haven.

- St. Chris Has Talent

A new Parish Talent show will wrap up Sunday events at the conclusion of the weekend. Alex Anderer-DiMichele is spearheading this event.

- Food and Refreshments

- A Saturday afternoon cookout, a Saturday night catered dinner after Mass, and outside vendors on Sunday are envisioned. Amy Gressell is spearheading this effort.
- Kona Ice will be available all weekend with 20% of the proceeds benefiting St. Chris.
- A Beer Garden for adults on Saturday and Sunday is under consideration in conjunction with Rocky River Brewing Company. Wine may be added for Saturday night.

- Promotions

- Signage is being created by Colleen McKenna.
- SCP weekend will be featured “front and center” on the St. Christopher Parish website.

- A sign-up table for volunteer opportunities will be set up in the Church Gathering Area.
- Corrigan Krause has again generously stepped in as the Weekend's prime sponsor – with twice the support they gave last year.
- Sponsorship opportunities for Parish families are under development to allow support at any level will be awarded an entry into a drawing. Support at a \$100 level will be awarded a t-shirt plus entry into a drawing. Particulars are yet to be finalized.
- Ticketing
  - A ticketing system for events, activities, food and refreshments is under development.
  - The Weekend's Parish Raffle system is being revamped to include digital participation.
- Highlights
  - An LED wall is being created under the Centennial Park pavilion for the Weekend, including the Movie Night event.
  - The dedication of the Parish's centennial time capsule is being planned with Kate Ptak.
  - The Ukraine Welcome Circle family will be introduced and welcomed to our Parish.
  - Outdoor Mass will be celebrated both Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at 11:30 AM.

### **Father John Updates**

- Ukraine Refugee Welcome Circle
  - The family welcomed by St. Christopher parishioners is overwhelmed by their new home and the kindness of those who have welcomed them.
  - The Parish has done an incredible job in every respect.
  - The Parma School System is engaged now in fulfilling educational needs.
  - Friendly neighbors have helped too.
- *Keeping the Faith*  
An update meeting with Diocesan Pastors, Principals and Business Managers is scheduled for June.
- Personnel Updates
  - Father Tim Daw's retirement will include his stepping away from some Parish activities including his involvement in athletics. His liturgical ministry will continue, including presiding at weekend and weekday Masses.
  - A couple St. Christopher School teachers will be departing after the current school year.

- Melissa DiFini is now actively involved full-time in her Parish ministry as Pastoral Minister.
- Bob McMurray will retire as Music Director effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mayumi Naramura was just hired and will assume her new role as Music Director on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She interviewed and performed for the position. She was born and raised in Japan. She came to the United States in the medical profession and has since pursued her advanced music education and her career in music. She currently serves Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cleveland as Music Director. She looks forward to serving as St. Christopher Music Director as a career position.

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

- Four Parishioners have expressed initial interest in serving on Parish Pastoral Council. Individual meetings for each with the Council Chair have been or will be completed shortly. Three of the four have indicated interest in attending Council's upcoming June meeting.
- There will be no July Council meeting to allow for a summer break.
- The Council's August meeting may be a regular meeting, or it may be an SCP planning meeting, to be determined later.
- The Bulletin announcement inviting Parishioners to attend our Council meeting will resume in June.

### **Parish Pastoral Council Officer Discernment for 2023 – 2024**

- As is our traditional practice, Father John exited the meeting for officer discernment.
- Gayle Cilimburg led the Council in discussion and dialogue to discern officers for the upcoming year.
- Each Council member individually weighed in on his/her talents, capabilities, interest, and availability to serve in a leadership position.
- Discussion ensued and several rounds of comments by each individual Council member were presented, collectively heard, and discussed.
- Officers were thoughtfully and prayerfully discerned:
  - Chair – Laura Hunter
  - Vice Chair – Chris Rosati
  - Secretary – Mary Horvath

### **Concluding Comments**

- Additional agenda suggestions are welcome.
- Frank McGee volunteered to lead the closing prayer in June.

### **Closing Prayer and Mission Statement**

Kevin Tennant led the group in closing with a prayer. Reading and reflection of the Parish Mission Statement concluded the meeting.

**Next Business Meeting**

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

7– 8:30 PM

Parish Center