

St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

August 15, 2023

Opening Prayers

The Parish Council meeting opened with our traditional faith sharing and prayers. The Gospel for the upcoming weekend liturgies for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time was read aloud and reflected on by each individual Council member. Personal intercessions were prayed. We concluded Opening Prayer with collective participation in the Responsorial Psalm for the Sunday liturgy.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Introductions were made of three prospective new Council members attending tonight's meeting to discern their commitment to our Ministry.

The minutes for May 16, 2023, were approved for posting to the St. Christopher website by Parish Office Manager Dawn Bloom.

Guest Speaker: Terri Pastura, Pastoral Associate

Terri Pastura introduced herself in her role to respond to the Parish Survey which overwhelmingly identified "better communications" as a key need for St. Christopher Parish. Terri's overarching goal is to foster evangelization and improved communications with technology solutions.

Highlights of Terri Pastura's presentation include:

- Terri Pastura comes to St. Christopher with an extensive background in Church ministry including work in diocesan parishes in Orlando, Houston, Michigan and Toledo in addition to positions in the Cleveland Diocese.
- Work at hand includes assessing and deploying technologies intended to make the Church more welcoming and to better equip the Church with the communications tools that suit changing cultural needs in the world of social media.
- Terri Pastura reviewed for Council some of the technology devices that are slated to be installed:
 - An 85-inch messaging screen in the Upper Gathering Area
 - A 65-inch messaging screen at the entry to St. Christopher School
 - A portable interactive display with vertical and horizontal capability

These devices will enable promotions and specialized messaging. The screens can run independently. The enabling software is being chosen for its flexibility and ease of operation. The transition from in-house servers to cloud based computing will facilitate remote information access.

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.

- The Parish information management system will be transitioning to Realm Church Management Software which builds upon and expands the current ACS system software. The goal is to expand the current technology tools available to Parish staff and Parish ministries to operate faster, better, more economically, and more effectively in meeting Parish needs. Moreover, Realm holds the promise of enabling parishioners the connect to the Parish and with one another. The Parish website can be hosted on Realm. The objective is system integration without loss of functionality.
- The outdoor Parish message sign is targeted for updating. An electronic sign will obviate the need for manual posting of signage in all kinds of weather, and it will allow for easier, timely updates. This upgrade introduces a need for expanded electrical capacity. Also, conformance with Rocky River codes (e.g. brightness) factors into decision-making. Unauthorized access to signage is a concern to be addressed.
- Wi-Fi expansion beyond existing bounds is under consideration. The only existing Wi-Fi now to the Centennial Park Pavilion is for the campus-wide security system and the security system Wi-Fi service is not owned or operated by the Parish.

Terri Pastura's presentation generated considerable interest, discussion and enthusiasm among Council participants. The balance of the meeting was somewhat abbreviated in the interest of allowing for this presentation to be thoughtfully heard and considered.

Ministries Issues and Concerns

Religious Education Updates from St. Christopher School and PSR

- PSR registrations lag last year at this point by about 100. The target is 350 students.
- A new modular program is being offered for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

Ladies Guild

- Activities continue apace.

Social Concerns

- A "huge" turnout of donations for Christmas in July provided much needed and much welcome support to the cause of serving the needy who will benefit.
- **Youth and Young Adults**
 - High school Youth Ministry greatly increased this summer.
 - Monthly gathering events will be planned to facilitate ongoing discussion regarding issues critical to their development as young adults. Meetings average 12 – 15 students.
 - Middle school Youth Ministry has cooled off a bit this summer. The rising 7th grade class appears to have little interest in Youth Ministry. A greater push will be made as school resumes.
 - Young Adult Ministry has participated this summer in the Diocesan YA softball league with "massive success". Pastoral Minister, Logan Feldkamp, served as the league's deputy commissioner and he recruited a St. Christopher Parish team. The league appeared to draw a large number of Young Adults back to the

faith. Logan Feldkamp intends to continue to help these larger efforts and he encourages Parishioner attendance and support.

SCP Weekend

- Planning for the activities and festivities during the weekend of Friday to Sunday, August 25 – 27, is in the final stretch.
- Volunteers continue to be needed. Online access to and sign-up for volunteer opportunities is encouraged.
- Advance ticket sale discounts end this Friday, August 18th.
- Sign-up for the Saturday night dinner after Mass is underway. Italian Creations will be catering the dinner. Later in the evening, pizza will be made available too.
- Casino plans for Saturday night have morphed into plans for a trivia tournament from 6 to 8 PM and a euchre tournament from 8 to 10 PM.

Father John Updates

- Ukraine Refugee Welcome Circle
 - This initiative continues to flourish with boundless generosity. The Ukrainian family will be receiving a car which has been donated for them.
- *Keeping the Faith*

At this juncture, the St. Christopher and St. Angela Merici Parish Schools have been teamed together for collaboration.
- St. Christopher School: EdChoice Expansion Program and the Angel Fund
 - The Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program provides students from designated public schools the opportunity to attend participating private schools. The program also provides students who are entering kindergarten through 12th grade scholarship opportunities based on their household income level. The State of Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program has enabled virtually every St. Christopher School family to qualify for some scholarship support. St. Christopher School Principal Mary Meler and Parish Business Manager Joe Williams have worked diligently to ensure that all St. Christopher School student families are aware of this valuable program and the processes to navigate Program participation.
 - Parish Council suggested that the EdChoice Program information be shared with parents of prospective St. Christopher School students – including those with young children not yet enrolled in school – whose choice could be influenced by financial aid considerations.
 - The State of Ohio Angel Scholarship Fund enables tuition assistance for students to attend Catholic schools. Ohio taxpayers can gift the Angel Scholarship fund and offset their gift with an equivalent Ohio State income tax credit up to \$750 (individual) and \$1500 (married couple). In the Fall St. Christopher Parish will urge ALL parishioners to examine this gift opportunity for the benefit of St. Christopher School students.

- Enrollment in St. Christopher School is now 205 students – one class for each grade and the preschool is at capacity with 80 students enrolled. The maximum class size is 30. 230 – 250 is optimal enrollment; capacity is 270.
- A generous parishioner who owns a carpet company donated new carpeting to St. Christopher School.
- Lakewood Parishes
 - Father John continues to serve as the temporary administrator for both St. Clement and St. James Churches.
 - The priests at St. Christopher serve on rotation with other priests celebrating weekend liturgies at the Lakewood Parishes.
- St. Christopher Parish finances
The Parish completed its fiscal year in the black.

Parish Pastoral Council

- Three prospective new members to Parish Council attended tonight's meeting as a final step in their discernment.
- Marilu Norena has resigned from Parish Council. Gratitude for her contributions was expressed.
- Future meeting dates for the 2023 – 2024 Council year are scheduled on Tuesdays as follows:

September 19	December 19	March 19	June 18
October 17	January 16	April 16	July 16
November 28	February 20	May 21	August 20

All meetings are scheduled the 3rd Tuesday of the month, except for November; in consideration of Thanksgiving the meeting will be held after the holiday weekend, the 4th Tuesday. All meetings will be held in the Parish Center, except for December when Council will collectively celebrate Christmas in the Parish Rectory with a social gathering to include spouses/significant others.

- Parish Council members are encouraged to volunteer individually for SCP Weekend needs. Sign up now.

Concluding Comments

- Additional agenda suggestions are welcome.
- Ken Szabo volunteered to lead the closing prayer in October.

Closing Prayer and Mission Statement

Frank McGee led the group in closing with a prayer that had special meaning to his mother. Reading and reflection of the Parish Mission Statement concluded the meeting.

Next Business Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

7– 8:30 PM
Parish Center