

Social Concerns Committee Minutes

Prayer Room, Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 1:00 pm

Attendees: Mary Ann Jurak, Julie Mallett, Jane Berkeley, Maggie McIntyre, Mary Haggard, Cheryl Salak, Colleen McKenna, Shannon McIntosh, Jeanette Nappier

- Opening prayer
- Thanksgiving Food Collection: Mary
 - Food delivered to Community Corners Hunger Center on Nov. 25
 - 162 families in the St. Colman and St. Pat neighborhood were served
 - More pies and rolls could have been used
 - Need to distinguish the SCC food collection from that of the PSR & School
 - Final report/task list follows the minutes
- Christmas GIFT Program: Jane, Colleen, Rita, Rose Mary, Julie, Sharon
 - Gift tags (newly digitized, thanks to Colleen) are out and are being taken
 - 15 organizations have submitted requests and arrangements for pickup made
 - PSR students will sort on Dec 15 immediately prior to pickups
 - Volunteers who can help the organizing team should arrive at 11:45 on Dec 15
 - Gifts left after pickups will be donated to Twice Blessed Free Store
- Creation Care: Jeanette
 - Request from Catholic Climate Covenant to comment on OSHA Heat Rule was presented. It was noted that “workers of color, as with most environmental justice issues, are disproportionately affected” by “working in dangerous heat”. Unfortunately, the comment link has stopped working.
 - Equal Exchange
 - Request that Parish Council use Equal Exchange coffee for Donut Sunday
 - New coffee, tea and chocolate sale for programs in Philippines
- Parish Council Feedback: Jeanette, Colleen
 - The meeting time was changed from 1:00 to 12:00 on the first Tuesday
 - SCC sub-committee meetings will be planned for times convenient to members, including evenings/weekends
 - A summary of the names of ministries like SCC at neighboring parishes was examined
 - The reoccurrence of the word social was noted
 - The summary is attached to the minutes
 - The SCC sections on the St. Chris website were briefly examined and initial recommendation were made; these have been subsequently implemented
 - Discussion will continue
- Closing Prayer
- Next meeting January 7, 2025, at 12:00 noon

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Nappier

December 6, 2024

Social Concerns Committee Thanksgiving Food Drive 2024

- Establish a committee of 3 or 4 people and delegate the jobs. This year the committee included Mary Ellen Grady, Maggie McIntyre, and Mary Haggard.
- In early October Mary called Cathie Kovacik (440-503-2462). Cathie is the director of Community Corner, 8302 Detroit Road where the food is delivered. It services people living in the St. Colman's and St. Patrick's parish. Mary and Cathie went over the food items that were needed for this year's drive and the date/time for the delivery. Cathie suggested we collect fresh potatoes, sweet potatoes, canned corn, canned cranberries, dinner rolls, fresh pies, brownies and cookies. The delivery was scheduled for the Monday before Thanksgiving at 9:30 a.m.
- Maggie contacted Dawn Bloom, the parish secretary, about putting our food drive announcement in the bulletin. This needs to be done 5 weeks prior to Thanksgiving. Maggie wrote the announcement and requested it be in the bulletin for the 3 weekends prior to Thanksgiving. Following is the information she sent to Dawn: "During the weekend of November 23 and 24 we will be collecting fresh potatoes, sweet potatoes, canned corn, canned cranberries, dinner rolls, fresh pies, brownies, and cookies. These items will be distributed to families in the St. Colman neighborhood for Thanksgiving. Please bring donations to the upper gathering area by 11:30 a.m. on November 24. The event is sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee."
- Mary Ellen contacted John Yakim (440-829-9351), the facilities supervisor, in October and requested tables be set up in the upper gathering area the weekend before Thanksgiving.
- A couple weeks before Thanksgiving Jeanette Nappier, the SCC chairperson, sent an email to Gayle Cilimburg requesting inclusion of the Thanksgiving Food Drive in the Mass announcements. Following is the text she sent: "Would you please add the Thanksgiving food collection to the list of suggested Mass announcements for this weekend (November 16-17). The collection, which will benefit families in the St. Colman neighborhood, will take place on the weekend of November 23-24. A list of requested items is in the bulletin." Father John also included the information in his weekly column in the bulletin.
- Six cars were needed to transport the food. Members of the SCC volunteered as well as people from the parish. The drivers this year were: Kevin Becker, Mary Ellen Grady, Mary Ann Jurak, Julie Mallett, Katie and Mary Rose, Kathy and Bob Weist.
- The drivers were asked to donate butter since it needs to be refrigerated and therefore wasn't on the list of foods requested from the parish.

- The drivers met at 9:00 a.m. at church on the Monday before Thanksgiving. It took about 15 minutes to load the cars and another 15 minutes to drive to Community Corner.
- Community Corner is at the corner of West 83rd and Detroit and has a side entrance. The drivers were requested to park on West 83rd. The staff was eager to help and

within 10 minutes all the cars were unloaded.

- Before leaving a group picture was taken. It was shared with Colleen McKenna, the parish communication director. She posted an article on Facebook along with the group picture.

- An article and several pictures were also sent to the Belltower Beacon (Lori Alexander Imetro626@gmail.com). Below is the text that was sent.

“Thanks to everyone for your contributions to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. With your help we were able to deliver six carloads of food to Community Corner Hunger Center which services St. Colman’s and St. Patrick’s Bridge Avenue. The food was distributed to 162 families. They were extremely grateful for the generosity of our parish.”

- Jeanette sent a thank you to the priests and Gayle for their help with the food drive. Mary sent a thank you to John, Colleen and Dawn.

- Several days after the food delivery Mary contacted Cathie Kovacik for comments and suggestions for next year. Cathie was very pleased with how things went this year. The Thanksgiving Food Drive provided food for 162 families. Many people commented on how great it was to get butter which is not something that is usually available to them. Her recommendations for next year include providing the same items as this year but to prioritizing pies and rolls and delete the canned corn.

- Possible recommendations for next year. This year many people seemed confused with the two different food drives (SCC and PSR/Day School). It might be helpful for the two drives to be listed together in the bulletin. Perhaps that would help people understand the differences. For example, who is collecting the food, is it fresh or canned food, and where is it delivered.

- The Thanksgiving Food Drive report was sent to SCC for inclusion in the minutes. Social Concerns Committee
CC for inclusion in the minutes.

Neighboring Parish Ministries Similar to St. Chris SCC

- St. Raphael
 - Ministries
 - Social Outreach
 - Social Concerns* and 4 others
- St. Angela
 - Parish Life
 - Parish Groups and Ministries
 - Social Justice Commission* (listed under both groups and ministries)
- St. Ladislaus
 - Ministries
 - Outreach
 - Care for Creation, part of the Social Justice Committee*

- St. Bernadette
 - Ministries
 - Social Concerns* and 8 others
- St. Luke
 - Ministries and Programs
 - Social Action Ministry*
- St. James
 - Serve
 - Opportunities for Christian Service
 - Giving Tree*
- St. Colman
 - Outreach Programs (not clearly indicated on web site)
- Diocese
 - Office
 - Catholic Charities
 - Families, Children and Community Service
 - Social Action Office*