



July 23, 2024

Meeting Minutes – Joint Parish Councils

St. Paul's, St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, St. John's, Transfiguration,
and St. Leo's/St. Ann's

Participants were welcomed to St. Paul's followed by an opening prayer by Fr. Kelly.

Subcommittee Reports:

Communications Subcommittee – Cheryl Haritatos – stressed the importance of everyone receiving the same information at the same time – all committee reports should be sent to the Communications Subcommittee for review, who will have them reviewed by the pastors. Working on the best way to get the info out – currently the bulletins are the most consistent way – a member of this subcommittee will be assigned to take notes at the Town Hall meetings. Then these should go out with the bulletins after the meeting. Want to stress that no church is “closing” –it may just mean that there will be no weekend worship but it is too early to say– may be used as parish offices, can have funerals, weddings, etc. – suggested having a section for definitions in the bulletin, e.g. “closing”; also have a FAQ section.

Facilities Subcommittee – Tom Carinci – members need to work together to maintain all facilities and plan on how to accomplish that – also, address snowplowing and grounds maintenance – currently, St. Peter's and St. John's have the equipment to do that so that contract services can be stopped – also reviewing care of cemeteries

Faith Formation Subcommittee – Sherry Gacina – “Use the best of what we have to work together” – objective to meet with the catechetical leaders from each parish to begin the process of working together – will meet in 2 weeks (Need a St. Peter's rep on committee)

Finance Subcommittee – not comprised of just trustees – finances are not a secret, but discretion must be used in disclosing some information, e.g. maintaining anonymity of bequests. Bequests and bank accounts are for the trustees only. The Subcommittee's goals are to look at merging staff, contracts, etc.

Naming Subcommittee – John MacGaffick - many suggestions have been received for the name of the new parish. Any more suggestions must be received by the first week of August. Phase 1 – all submissions to be reviewed and the list narrowed down. Phase 2 - ballot will go out for vote of choices selected by the subcommittee – one name will be submitted to the Bishop. Phase 3 – Pastor and trustees make a request to the Bishop for approval and final determination.

Social Subcommittee – Deb Grogan – Mission – to welcome, revitalize, engage, cultivate, guide, serve and nurture our parish family- stressed importance of social activities to bring people together. Also stressed the importance of service activities and including all churches'

organizations as well as including the youth of all churches. It's important to celebrate the new parish!

Weekend Mass Schedule Subcommittee – Fr. Sean – over approx. 8 weeks, groups of at least 4 will visit each church (as a group) and attend each Mass. There will be several criteria to be mindful of on these visits. These will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting. There are also diocesan guidelines that must be considered. There can be no communion services unless there is not a church around having Mass.

Open Forum – Issue raised at the Town Hall: “Where are the young people?” Discussed having 2 daily Masses, e.g. 7am and 12:10pm to accommodate working people. Also to have Confession during the week and not just before weekend Mass and to have weekend Mass at times conducive to working (and young) people.

Music ministry – will consolidate music to have same music at each church.

In the future, meetings of priests, trustees, and Joint Parish Councils will be audio recorded. If there are any questions, the recording is available for confirmation of what was said.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Next meeting of Joint Parish Councils – THURSDAY, September 5th at 6pm at St. Joseph's

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Manfredo

President, St. Paul's Parish Council