

# **Church of the Good Shepherd**

## **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Minutes–April 16, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fr. Glenn Whitman; Mark Colella; DJ Puskar; Mike Bartolo; Brian Biggins; Pat Chovan; Deb Sokolak; Leah Ann Williams.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jim Bird; Pat Miller.

**GUESTS:** Mary Killingsworth.

**OPENING PRAYER:** said by all members.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** the approval of the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes was inadvertently skipped; it will become an agenda item for the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Liturgy:** comments submitted by Fr. Glenn:

- The Stations of the Cross on Friday during Lent attracted large crowds. Services for all the events of the Easter Triduum were well attended, especially the Easter Sunday services.
- The Parish Mission, led by Fr. Bob Gielow, had approximately 100 people attend each night. A free will offering of over two thousand dollars was collected the last night of the mission. Fr. Glenn has booked Fr. Bob to conduct a new mission for the Church during the week before Ash Wednesday in late February, 2025; perhaps livestreaming again next year.

**FINANCE:** comments submitted by Fr. Glenn:

- We have met our diocesan assessment for the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). We do not have any planned capital program this year, but are hoping to use the excess pledges to build our reserves for future maintenance programs. Fr. Glenn will be sending thank you letters to those parishioners who have pledged to date, and will send letters to all other parishioners encouraging them to join in the success of this program.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** report submitted by Lauren DeFelice.

- The Easter egg hunt was attended by about 25 children. The Liturgy of the Word is attended by about six children at the 9:00 AM Mass and average four children at the 11:30 AM Mass.
- Four students prepared and completed their First Reconciliation this year. Two students will receive First Eucharist on Sunday, May 5 at the 11:30 AM Mass. Ten students will receive their Confirmation on Thursday, April 25 at Church of Notre Dame.
- The last class for Confirmation and EDGE students is April 21. The last classes for grades K-5 is April 28.
- The Church of the Good Shepherd will host the community's Vacation Bible School event this year, on July 15-July 19 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

**SOCIAL:** includes Jim Bird, Pat Chovan, Deb Sokolak and Leah Ann Williams.

- The Spring Wine and Cheese event, chaired by Deb Sokolak, will be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> after the 6:00 PM Mass. Deb has ordered all food items. Announcements have been included in the weekly bulletins inviting attendees to bring their favorite wine, appetizer or snacks. Mary Killingsworth will be conducting a Team Trivia game for those attending who would like to play. Leah Ann Williams offered to provide O'Neill Coffee gift cards as prizes.
- The next coffee and donuts event is scheduled for Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00 AM Mass.
- The date of the annual Parish Picnic will be Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- A planned soup fundraiser will be later in September (the date to be decided at the next meeting), and the Charity Dinner to be held in October (date still to be finalized).

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** includes Brian Biggins and Pat Miller.

- Shutoff valves for water in the dishwashing room had been very difficult to access and were successfully moved, for easier access and safety.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** none to report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Community Food Warehouse (CFW) food distribution: about sixty people received grocery items during the April event. Volunteers from Good Shepherd bag the food items for efficient distribution on the day of the event. The next food distribution will be on Wednesday, May 1. Gary Salatino plans to review the process during the summer and make changes where necessary. We discussed the possibility of purchasing a freezer to store donated frozen food.
- Spaghetti Dinner recap: Leah Ann Williams chaired the event, held on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. John Moroco, Ed Grober and Judy Onestak, who headed previous dinners offered their assistance and want to help again next year. Over 550 meals were served; 32 percent were takeout dinners. Profit of over \$5,500 will fund the Religious Education department. Our Teen Shepherds worked very hard at the event and many people commented to Leah Ann how helpful our young adults were in providing help with bringing meals to their tables, providing beverages and offering cleanup to keep things moving well. Leah Ann is extremely grateful to the dozens of volunteers who donated raffle baskets, sold tickets, made meatballs and sauce, set up, served meals and cleaned up. What a giving community and it was a true Parish event!
- Shelter/Picnic Pavilion on the Parish grounds: The West Middlesex School District is surveying their property, as it was noted by several Council members that survey stakes are in the ground. We will wait for the survey to be completed for further discussion.
- Training for greeters and ushers to introduce them to the latest safety measures will be conducted by our Police Chief Jason Newton on June 16<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00 AM Mass.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Cookbook sale: we need to gauge interest to decide if we want to pursue this as a possible fundraiser. Leah Ann will ask for parishioner interest in future weekly Church bulletins.
- A handout provided by Fr. Glenn to propose charging fees for funeral luncheons, as we face continuing rising costs for food and utilities. Currently, bereaved families consider donations to the Church, but these often do not cover the cost of the food. After discussion, the group decided it is prudent to charge the bereaved families for the cost of food for parishioner's luncheons (including non-parishioner spouses or non-parishioner children), currently estimated to be about \$7/person. Currently \$15/person would be charged for non-parishioner's luncheon. Fr. Glenn will discuss with our Parish Finance Council at their next meeting.

**ITEMS TOO LATE FOR AGENDA:** none to report.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall Meeting Room.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** said by all members and guests.

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- 4.20.2024: Spring Wine & Cheese Event (after the 6:00 PM Mass)
- 5.1.2024: West Middlesex / Shenango Township food distribution
- 5.12.2024: Coffee and donuts (after the 9:00 AM Mass)
- 6.16.2024: Safety training with Police Chief Jason Newton (after the 9:00 AM Mass)
- 9.8.2024: Annual Parish Picnic (after the 11:30 AM Mass)
- September, 2024 (tentative): Soup Sale
- October, 2024 (tentative) Charity Dinner

Respectfully submitted by Mike Bartolo – Parish Council Secretary