

St. Catharine of Siena Church  
4975 Boyertown Pike  
Reading, PA 19606

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 5, 2023

**Attendance:** Fr. Brian Miller, Fr. Matthew Kuna, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul Bassler, Karen McDevitt, Troy Rudy, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deanna Stratton, Michael Wertz, Michelle Wunder, and Marci Zambito - DRE Ex-officio member

**Absent:** Emmanuel Geishouser, Robert Hoffman – Vice-Chair, Lisa Ianni, and Deacon John Stapleton

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Miller

**Old Business:**

- **Nominating Committee:** Mike Balla noted that the members are Paul Bassler, Lisa Siciliano and Michael Wertz.
- **Revision of By Laws:** Tabled. The By Laws are being circulated to the council members so we can discuss at the next meeting if any changes or additions are needed. The pdf document is being converted to Word to make it modifiable.
- **Communications Director Status:** Deferred.
- **Catholic Leadership:** Marci Zambito is the Church's point of contact. A self-survey will be done, then a Parish wide survey will be done beginning Ash Wednesday. There is also an application process through the Diocese to participate in the program which is being offered free of charge because of a grant. It is expected to take about 3 months to get the survey results and be informed if our Parish gets full support for the program, partial support, or has the opportunity to participate via Zoom.
- **Advent Reflection Nights:** It was reported that the Women's Advent Reflection night was a huge hit. The Men's event is Sunday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and Rob Luongo is the guest speaker. Everyone was encouraged to invite the men they know to attend.
- **New Members Brunch:** Father Miller indicated that several new families are scheduled to attend a brunch to meet the Priests and members of Parish Council and to learn more about our Church community. The next one is tentatively scheduled in May 2024.
- **Advent Bulletin Handouts:** Father Miller worked with other local Priests to coordinate a Berks County schedule for adoration and confession and to identify which churches on which days, and at what times. Those handouts will be in the Bulletin.
- **40 Hours:** Father Miller noted that our 40 Hours celebration is scheduled for January 7, 8 and 9, 2024 at the Church with Deacon JV preaching on the 7<sup>th</sup> at a healing service;

Deacon Keaton Eidle on the 8<sup>th</sup>; and Deacon Aaron Scheidel on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A dinner for the Priests will be held on Tuesday night. Servers are needed to help with the dinner.

- **Lenten Event:** A Lenten event hosted by the Diocese will be at St. Catharine's on Monday March 4, 2024. Rob Johnson will be the speaker.
- **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee:** Father Miller is forming a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to coordinate the year of special events at St. Catharine's throughout 2025. Bishop Schlert is scheduled to be here to celebrate Mass on May 18, 2025.
- **Rectory:** Construction of the new rectory is going well. Father Miller regularly meets with the contractor.

#### **Committee Updates:**

- **Communications:** Father Miller reported that the Tabella app is in use to communicate Church events etc. to parishioners. Everyone is encouraged to add the free iPhone and android app.
- **Facilities:** Mike Balla reported that:
  - He has an outside light to install at the Church for better visibility in the evening.
  - He received a quote for work at the Convent and explored under what circumstances a variance would be needed. He has a walk through planned with Mrs. K to see how the space and materials could be used.
  - The committee created a mockup of possible new signage for along the main road at the Church.
  - A quote was received to do cement repairs at St. Mary's.
  - Mowing and garden bed maintenance schedules are being put in place.
  - Gas furnace maintenance is being worked on.
  - Parking lot paving will be scheduled for after the new Rectory and Church renovations are completed.
  - Questions were asked about the stained ceiling tiles in the Church and Narthex and about the possibility of upgrading the bathrooms in the Church. The committee will check with the contractors on both of those items.
  - There was discussion about preserving key parts of the Chapel in the event it's no longer in use.
- **Faith/Spiritual:** Deanna Stratton reported that:
  - The Women's Advent evening on December 3<sup>rd</sup> was attended by approximately 136 women. The committee received positive feedback from those who attended. We may want to add more time to the event next year and see if we can get additional priests to help with confession. The Men's Advent evening is December 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Christmas book gift for all our parish families, including the shut-ins will be ready to hand out after all the Christmas Masses.

- Epiphany kits are being prepared to hand out to Families after that Mass. The kit will include chalk, holy water and instructions for blessing your home.
- Dinner and a movie is being planned for February 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information to follow.
- On February 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a renewal of wedding vows with Mass on Saturday at 4:30 PM followed by dinner in the Social Hall.
- The committee is working on selecting a date for a Spring/Summer parish picnic.
- **Fundraising:** No Report.

**New Business:**

- There was discussion about the possibility of bringing back greeters and ushers for the Masses.
- There was a request to identify a possible Eagle Scout Project a member of the Youth Group could do.

**Blessing:** Father Miller gave a blessing to close the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Parish Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa A. Siciliano  
Secretary