

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

**Attendance:** Fr. Brian Miller, Father JV, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul R. Bassler, Lisa Ianni, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deacon John Stapleton, Deanna Stratton, Cynthia Waldman, Tim Waldman, and Marci Zambito - DRE Ex-officio member

**Absent:** Karen McDevitt, Merrick Plaisance, and Michael Wertz,

**Opening Prayer:** Father Miller

**Pastor's Remarks:**

Father Miller discussed:

Recent events:

- Valentine day dinner
- Movie night
- Youth Retreat
- Catholic Schools Week
- Patience with the Church as lighting and sound issues were worked on

Infrastructure:

- The lighting should be completed this week
- The discolored ceiling tiles were replaced
- The spot above the Altar was fixed and just needs to be painted
- The sale of the Rectory and Chapel on Perkiomen Avenue is expected to move forward over the next few months
- Repair efforts will shift to needs at the school

Faith and Prayer:

- Extra items are being added:
  - Confession before Sunday Masses
  - 10 Priests available for Confession the Monday of Holy Week
  - 6:30 PM Mass on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during Lent
  - A discussion on St. Catharine on March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Sessions on the Psalms for the next 5 Tuesdays
  - Q&A on the Wednesday of Holy Week

- Divine Mercy Novena and Liturgy on Divine Mercy Sunday at 3 PM
- A Pentecost Vigil starting on Good Friday
- A Corpus Christi procession at the 11:30 AM Mass
- Celebrations on May 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Deacon Jeff Tomczyk's first preaching Mass in the morning after his ordination on the 17<sup>th</sup>
  - 3:00 PM 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass with Bishop Schlert with a light reception to follow
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - Retreat April 5-6
  - May 18<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM Mass
  - Food Truck event and Stewardship Fair in September, hopefully including St. Mary's pierogies
  - Pilgrimage to Italy in October
  - Fall Photos for a new Directory that will include pictures from throughout the 100 year celebration
  - November outreach efforts
  - Possible Parish Cookbook sale in December and celebration on the actual 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary date
- Catholic Leadership Institute
  - We are moving from the envisioning phase to the implementation phase
  - 3 areas of focus that were decided upon are:
    - Updating the Parish database to enhance communications
    - Empowering families to engage their whole family in the faith
    - More catechesis for the faithful
- Rosaries will be said before some of the Masses to pray for Msgr. Ed Domin as he undergoes medical challenges.

#### **Committee Updates:**

- **Communications and Fundraising:** No reports.
- **Facilities:** HVAC units were installed. Mold remediation work is done at the convent. The replacement lights are expected to be finished this week. The sound system has been repaired.

- **Faith/Spiritual:**

- Deanna Stratton reported:
  - The New Parishioner Brunch was successful with 26 new members in attendance. The next one may be scheduled in August or September.
  - Book Review sessions were held by Father Miller and Deacon Stapleton to discuss the books that were distributed at Christmas.
  - About 54 people attended the Marriage Renewal and Valentine Dinner.
  - Millions of Monica's began in January. More advertisements are planned to encourage others to join in the prayers.
  - A 7Sisters ministry is being coordinated to pray Holy Hours for Father Miller and Father JV.
  - Social Sundays are scheduled March 6<sup>th</sup> – Ancient Order of Hiberians; April 27<sup>th</sup> – St. Vincent DePaul; May (date TBD) – 60 + Club; June 6<sup>th</sup> – Cursillo; and September 7<sup>th</sup> – Knights of Columbus
  - The "5000 Blankets" movie and dinner night went well with about 50 people attending and 39 blankets donated to the Salvation Army. Another Movie and dinner is planned for May 4<sup>th</sup> showing Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope and having a Star Wars themed dinner. Christine McAdams is coordinating the event.
  - Discussion about a local pilgrimage opportunity for parishioners elicited several ideas that will be looked into.

**New Business:**

- By-Laws: Mike Balla is working on a review of the By-Laws. Parish Council members were given a copy and should send any comments to Mike before the next meeting.
- A discussion was had about adding additional Parish Council members so there will be 12. The Nominations Committee will propose names and bring those to the next meeting.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa A. Siciliano  
Secretary