

Saint Mary Parish  
Franklin, MA  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Sacred Heart Hall

Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2023 (approved 9/11/23)

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm. There were no questions/concerns with the agenda.

The prayer from the Book of Blessings, #552, was led by Father Bob and read aloud by all present.

**Welcome –**

Father Bob welcomed all to the Parish Pastoral Council meeting. He shared a self-introduction that included information about his youth in Massachusetts, education, ordination, and his pathway to St. Mary Parish. He referenced his current onboarding process at St. Mary Parish that is involving experiencing, learning, and observing.

Fr. Bob noted that we, St. Mary parishioners, are moving forward from the Pandemic. There are new guidelines for eucharistic ministers and some new procedures for lectors. More volunteers will be joining parish ministries. Eucharist will continue to be received only in the hand. He and staff are researching missalettes and songbooks.

Fr. Bob introduced his shared vision for the parish. There will be listening sessions that will be hosted by members of the Parish Council, Finance Council, and Parish Staff. These will take place in our homes, from September to November 2023. More information to follow.

**Introductions –**

PPC members introduced themselves, shared their ministry affiliations, and life in St. Mary Parish.

**Installation Mass –**

Father Bob stated that his Installation Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, June 24 at 4 o'clock. The Most Reverend Bishop Robert Reed will introduce Fr. Bob as Pastor of St. Mary Parish. The Finance Council and Parish Pastoral Council will be asked to stand. The Knights of Columbus will provide an honor guard. Terry Kerr is working on the music literature. Terry Kerr and Trisha Murphy will prepare the program booklet for the Mass.

**Reception –**

The Parish Pastoral Council will host a reception immediately following the Installation Mass. The meeting to discuss the reception will be held immediately following this meeting of the PPC.

### **Lightning Round –**

Father Bob introduced and explained the Lightning Round, which is an opportunity for the PPC members to share observations, raise questions (not to be answered at this time) and generally offer a “view from the pew”.

Some of the observations/questions included:

- Restoring altar servers ministry
- Parish vision conversation
- Re-set on the plan for the patrimony with transparency, including Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Council, and Building Committee
- A suggestion that priests greet parishioners after Mass at the foot of the stairs, rather than the top of the stairs
- Altar care for linens and vessels is needed
- Increase in social media response is happening
- Continue the outreach for new members of various ministries
- Special relationship of St. Mary Parish within Town of Franklin
- Return to pre-pandemic roles of youth in our church
- Build up youth involvement in our church
- Focus on activities for youth
- Focus on involvement of young adults
- Quality of music ... music ministry ... outstanding
- Work of SVdP Society
- Liked homily. Take young people’s experience and help to connect them with result of greater attendance at Mass
- Bring back ushers
- Use parish website as evangelization tool. Update.

### **Closing thoughts**

Fr. Bob helped to bring closure to the Lightning Round by noting that they are planning to restart the altar server program with September as a launch date. He appreciated the numerous remarks that included youth ministry. Additionally, Fr. Bob thanked all for a wonderful weekend experience of good attendance, beautiful music, and all who contributed to the services.

### **Closing Prayer –**

Father Jack led us in the Glory Be.