

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

Draft Minutes for November 13, 2023

Pandora Carlucci opened the meeting opened at 7:00pm. 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.

The minutes from the meeting of September 11, 2023, were approved by all present.

**Welcome and update:** Pandora opened the meeting and asked Fr. Bob to provide a Parish update.

**Confirmation:** Fr. Bob began his update with Confirmation. One hundred forty (140) youth members of St. Mary Parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation in September. All went well.

**Migrants and Refugees:** Father Bob then spoke about the migrant and refugee individuals and families who are being housed in a Franklin hotel.

- The hotel has reached capacity, which is around 300 residents. Those who are eligible are obtaining work permits.
- The Interfaith Council, led by Pastor Juncker, Franklin United Methodist Church, is collecting clothing, sorting, and storing it at the UMC, and delivering it to the hotel.
- Reverend Kathy McAdams, St. John's Episcopal Church is leading an afterschool program on Wednesdays.
- St. Mary Parish Knights of Columbus collected and delivered winter coats to all staying at the hotel.
- The Interfaith Council was considering a community dinner but has set this aside for the time being.
- Franklin's efforts in support of the migrant and refugee population are being recognized as "leading the way" with collaborative and support for this fragile community.

**Evening of Recollection:** Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate, sponsored an *Evening of Recollection* for all liturgical ministers. The evening included a talk by Fr. Jack about the scriptures, words and a blessing from Fr. Bob, scripture readings by lectors, and music led by Terry Kerr.

**Synod on Synodality:** Fr. Bob noted that the first phase of the Synod on Synodality, convened by Pope Francis, has concluded. He shared that this phase included the opportunity for participation by appointed lay men and women.

**Listening Sessions:** There was limited response by the Parish Pastoral Council to the suggestion that Parish Pastoral Council members conduct Listening Session gatherings in their homes. That is okay. In the spring we may try to hold two Listening Sessions in Sacred Heart Hall. This will enable all to better understand the process of a Listening Session.

**Holy Days of Obligation:** Masses for holy days of obligation will be celebrated in the upper church for the 4:00pm vigil and the 7:00am morning mass. Additionally, an evening Mass, on the holy day, may be added in the future.

**Parish Finance Council update:** Tom Duval, Chair, shared that finances are good. The windows in the rectory have been replaced and the floor has been re-done. All is functioning better.

**201 Main Street Update:** Patricia Murphy, Finance and Operations Manager, provided a thorough update on the parish patrimony, specifically the property at 201 Main Street (school building, carriage house, parking lot, and grounds). The project was paused as our former pastor retired and Fr. Bob was appointed to lead the parish. Patricia distributed a packet of information pertaining to the new construction aspect of the project (see attached). The Archdiocese owns the property. Fr. Bob said he would like to hold a parish “town hall” to bring everyone up to date on the project.

**Festival of Lessons and Carols:** This annual Advent tradition will be held December 10. There will be hymns by our Parish Choir and scripture readings.

**Night of Prayer and Penance:** Fr. Bob and Fr. Jack will lead a night of Adoration, penance, and prayer in preparation for Christmas. More details to follow.

**Welcoming:** Fr. Bob shared his thinking about a special Christmas bulletin. It would include information about ministries and how to join the parish. There would be greeters at the church doors welcoming all to St. Mary Parish at the Christmas Masses.

**Altar servers:** Youth who have received the Sacrament of the Eucharist will be invited to sign up to be altar servers. Fr. Bob and an adult leader will conduct the training sessions.

### **Missalettes:**

Missalettes will return the first weekend of Advent.

**Lightning Round** – Some of the thoughts shared by PPC members as part of the Lightning Round, which included a prompt regarding advice for youth, included:

- Put away phones.
- Life passes more quickly than imagined.

- Pay attention to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Have we considered bringing back the passing of the collection baskets (in the church)?
- Set goals and expectations.
- Volunteer when young and it becomes a life habit.
- Pay attention at retreats. Give God a try.
- Midnight Mass. COVID ended it.
- High school may be difficult, but the years pass quickly.
- Be aware of the choices made at confirmation. Privilege begets responsibilities. Opportunity to evangelize.
- Bring parents along on the journey.
- 201 Main Street ... updating people is a process.
- Recognize strength of faith more; say what is in your heart.
- Don't throw away reference books.
- Coming up the center aisle for Holy Communion and returning the same way is crowded.
- If you hear someone is having a hard time, make a gesture.
- The creche is up on St. Rocco Plaza. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. The Christmas services being held during the latter part of the day on Christmas Eve will be at 4:00pm, 6:00pm with full choir; and 7:30pm. The 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve is usually crowded.

**Closing Thought:** Fr. Bob reminded us that the Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The freewill offering will benefit the Fuel Assistance program for Franklin residents in need.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Jack led us in the Glory Be.