

Saint Mary Parish
Franklin, MA
Parish Pastoral Council
Religious Education Building

Minutes for November 18, 2024

Present: Father Bob Poitras, Pastor; Father John Tanyi, Parochial Vicar; Karen Ackles, Religious Education Director; Terry Kerr, Music Director; Patricia Murphy, Finance and Operations Manager; Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate

Parish Pastoral Council Members: Patricia Colford, Paula Coughlin, Ed Croak, John Determan, Kara Gulla, Tim Hurdelbrink, Lauren Kelleher, Paula Marano, Lisa Oxford, Nan Rafter, John Ristaino, Thomas Seery, Pandora Carlucci

Youth Members: Eiley Cinelli, Matthew Colford

Open Meeting – Pandora Carlucci welcomed all to the meeting.

Prayer – Fr. Bob offered a prayer of thanksgiving for tonight's meeting.

Agenda – The agenda was approved by all in attendance.

Welcome – Father Bob welcomed all to the meeting. This was our first meeting since the passing of Fr. Jack and the fire. Fr. Bob recognized and thanked all for their help and support these past weeks. Fr. Jack's passing is a loss for the entire parish family.

Church Repairs - Work on the church is underway. The fire began in the sacristy and investigations are indicating arson, as a cause. He is grateful for the safety of the community.

The sacristy has been gutted. Heavy smoke damage throughout the main church. The school is the salvage area location. Organ will need to be replaced. The Archdiocese has noted that the parish is fully insured. A Fire Fund has been established for donations.

The work will not be done in time for Christmas. The 4 pm Mass will be at the high school and the rest of the masses will take place in the Chapel and Sacred Heart Hall

- There was a great response to the newly formed Youth Group. Fr. Bob introduced Eiley Cinelli, a student member of the PPC and a member of the Youth Group.
- Newly appointed Archbishop of Boston, Richard Henning, was in the area and came to St. Mary Church the night of the fire to lend his support.

- December 9, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be in the Chapel.

Subcommittees – Due to the events of the recent past, not all of the subcommittees have met. Fr. John and John Ristaino are addressing the fund-raising committee. They have some good suggestions for events, including a gathering at La Cantina Winery. At this time, they are on hiatus, as the Parish addresses Advent, Christmas and the ongoing Fire repairs.

Fr. Jack was to have led the 150th Anniversary Subcommittee. Fr. Bob asked Pandora Carlucci to chair this subcommittee. Fr. Jack's passing is a tremendous loss to the entire Parish and to the subcommittee.

Fr. Bob is chairing the Weekend Experience Committee and hopes the Subcommittee is able to meet sometime in December.

Lightning Round – Parish Council Members ... many thoughts were shared.

- Thankful for our parish
- Thankful for parish leadership ... St. Mary Strong
- Acknowledged the great support of the Ambassadors.
- Expressions of loss due to Fr. Jack's passing.
- Greater community aware of the passing of Fr. Jack.
- Parish responses to this loss and challenge have been great
- Ongoing work of SVdP

Closing thoughts – Father Bob brought the meeting to a close with a thank you. There is much to be thankful for. He invited the PPC to join him and Fr. John in the main school area to view the materials that had been removed from the church and were currently in storage.

Closing Prayer – Father John led us in *The Glory Be*

Pandora Carlucci, November 18, 2024