

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

Minutes for March 10, 2025

Present: Father Bob Poitras, Pastor; Father John Tanyi, Parochial Vicar; Karen Ackles, Religious Education Director; Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate

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

Youth Member: Eiley Cinelli

Open Meeting – Pandora Carlucci welcomed all to the meeting.

Prayer – Fr. Bob led the Council in reading Book of Blessings #552 (A prayer used before every session of Vatican 11)

Welcome – Father Bob welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked the Parish Council for their help with the Reception that followed the blessing of St. Mary Church. He noted that Archbishop Henning enjoyed being at St. Mary Parish, the diversity of age groups, and families. There is a great article about the rededication of St. Mary Church in *The Boston Pilot*.

Church Repairs - Work on the church continues and is 80% to 90% complete. Work remains on heating/HVAC system; stained glass windows; sound system; choir loft; Livestream function; security system, and the installation of the new organ. All is moving along but it takes time.

- Access to the church continues to be limited. The church is open for Mass and for some meetings in Sacred Heart Hall.
- Lent and Easter –
 - Stations of the Cross – each Friday, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Each week a different parish group/ministry leads the Stations.
 - Each Wednesday during Lent, our Parish will celebrate Evening Prayer with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation. Evening Prayer begins at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.
 - Triduum Services
 - Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Last Supper, 7:00 pm Main Church

- Good Friday – Passion of the Lord Service at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the Main Church.
 - Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil in the Main Church at 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday – Masses at 7:00 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am.
- Youth – The Core Team is regrouping and hopes to meet before Easter.
- Finances – Good.
 - Should be able to provide an update on the Fire Fund.
 - Will wrap up fund
 - Extend thanks to donors
 - Hoping some money is available to update signage outside church
- Prayers for Tricia Murphy, her health and her recovery
- Thanks to John Ristaino for all that he did throughout these months post-fire and while Fr. Bob was away and continues to do as the Parish moves forward.

One member wondered about the status of the school building. Fr. Bob responded that the school building is something that was set aside due to the fire. It will be addressed in the future.

Subcommittees – Due to the events of the recent past, most subcommittees have not met. The 150th Celebration Committee had an opportunity to meet and is putting together a draft calendar, February 2027 to February 2028, for Fr. Bob's review, input, and general consideration.

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

- Numerous people around the table expressed thanks for our parish, and for ministerial and lay Parish leadership. St. Mary Strong! The dedicated support of the Ambassadors.
- 5:00 pm Mass was the youth Mass. Return of this Mass?
- Is the parish aware of the PPC? Would an email address or similar help parishioners to reach out with questions?
- Grateful to be in the main church once again.
- Attendance is up.

Closing thoughts – Father Bob shared that there will be a fund-raising event to help with the costs associated with Tricia's brain cancer on April 6, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Liz's Tavern in Bellingham. Information will be in the bulletin.

After his visit, Archbishop Henning sent letters of thanks and gratitude to the Fire Department, Police Department, Town Administrator, and the Superintendent of Schools.

Closing Prayer – Father John led us in *The Glory Be* and shared his own words of prayer.

Pandora Carlucci, March 10, 2025