

HOLY CROSS PARISH

A welcoming, vibrant community committed to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: November 10, 2024

Minutes approved Sunday, January 12, 2025

Present: Marguerite Webster, Matthew Tabone, Rich Meyers, Kerry Mess, Andrew Turner

Open with prayer: <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/5-opening-prayers-for-meetings-and-events.html>

Heavenly Father, we come before you today in humility and faith. We thank you for all you have given us and the many blessings in our lives. We ask for your guidance and strength. Show us the way and fill us with courage and wisdom. Help us to remember your love and grace and to be faithful in our service to you. Give us the patience and understanding to face life's challenges with grace. We ask these things in your name, Amen.

I. Council Minutes

- A. Last meeting: Approval of minutes (October 13) – **approved**
- B. July 28, September 8 minutes posted on website

II. Meeting Items

A. Bulletin

- 1. Carol Barry request: Put next week's ministers, lectors in – below this week's
- 2. Put greeters for week and next week
- 3. Highlight second collections – Make sure we announce second collections!

B. Betty O'Brien: Tent city in Oneonta (near Home Depot)

- 1. What could we do – donations, something else to be a voice/representation? [Catholic Charities? In conjunction with some other group?]
- 2. Inquire to find out intent?
- 3. When is our month for food pantry? Ask Maureen. Whom do we communicate with for this? Kerry aiming to send email to Morris Area Christian Churches for calendar

C. Advent/Christmas season – planning?

- 1. Matthew working on letter to parishioners, all inactives on our list – invitation
Cards for inactive people – something nice enough to keep
Need to hand write names and final sign off – Andrew Turner, Marguerite Webster, Rich Meyers, and Matthew Tabone willing to do a group for this
Plan to send: Monday Nov 25
work party to do cards: Thursday, Nov 21, 11 a.m.; if we need more time, 11 a.m. on Friday
- 2. Christmas Eve – Tuesday 4 p.m.
- 3. 1st Sunday – Advent Fair in parish hall (make wreaths, refreshments)
- 4. Offer opportunity to sell things they make? Which Sunday? Dec. 8 (with coffee hour)
- 5. Advent calendars would be nice to have
- 6. Giving tree – used to work in conjunction with school (food baskets) – school now does in house
Rotary does food (those in need)/fruit (shut ins, older folks)
generic or grocery / Walmart gift cards – any amount
Put announcement in Nov 24 bulletin

D. Reflections on Sheila Geer's presentation (last meeting) – none except thanks to Sheila!

E. Seeking support

- 1. Greeters – ask by name! We want one more by Advent; Marguerite will get one more
- 2. Pastoral Council drive – ask by name! **Left open**

F. Parish Project Plan

1. Milestone #1 (speaker system) – check in
box is built to house hardware/wires
goal: By Advent
2. Milestone #2 (welcoming campaign) – check in
 - a. *The Daily Star* advertisement - Marguerite will check Daily Star for ad
 - b. Facebook page?
Carol Lernahan – checking to see if she has records for accessing Facebook page or Holy Cross website (distinct from RCDA website)
 - c. Connection cards updated, 2 on each pew end; more on back table
Advent season, announce for people to fill out
3. Milestone #3 (greeting campaign) – check in
 - a. 4 greeters
 - b. Cards for advent: Schedule – see above (C. 1)
4. Fixing Pews! – Advent deadline?
Rich looked: Too heavy, thought about creating a clip for middle of pew
Will take a set apart to see about resetting bolts this week to see if it will help
Will let us know once it's finished if it works – we can gather a volunteer workforce.

III. New Business

- A. Andrew Turner donating new vacuum (battery one dies quite quickly), also thinking about Dirt Devil – heavy for older people to push
- B. Cleaning: Deal with votive and altar candles – Matthew taking care of refilling as necessary

IV. Upcoming

- A. Rosary after mass next Sunday, November 17
- B. **Next meeting: Sunday, January 12 – coffee hour**

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: October 13, 2024

Present: Matthew Tabone, Kerry L Mess, Marguerite Webster, Mike Stensland, Rich Meyers, Sheila Geer

Absent: Dana Mockovciak (FL), Carol Tyson (surgery), Jenna Turner

Open with prayer: <https://connectusfund.org/7-prayers-for-church-council-meetings>

Dear Lord, we gather together as a group who aim to advise Your people. So help us to do so with Your wisdom; not our own because the way of a fool is right in his own eyes; let us not be ignorant to Your way. We pray that as we act as the church council, we listen to Your counsel so that we can be wise members. Father, help us be sensitive to Your Holy Spirit, Amen.

- I. Council Minutes
 - A. Last meeting: Approval of minutes (September 8) – **Approved**
 - B. July 28 posted on website, [will send Sept. 8 minutes to Michael Beaver](#)

- II. Meeting Items
 - A. Special Guest: Sheila Geer – Music Conference sharing (**Consider: Where might what we learn fit in our project plan?**)
 1. National Association of Pastoral Musicians (3-day conference, St. Edward the Confessor, Clifton Park)
 2. Fr. Ricky Manalo (writes music) gave keynote:
 - a. What music means in the mass
 - i. We're doing things right. :)
[Some day we'll have the winds and more strings in addition to piano and guitar.]
 - ii. Music as a ritual – opening hymn = critical, gathering of people / assembly drives mass
 - iii. Important to pay attention to text for psalm (accuracy) – back off once people learn the song
 - iv. Mass parts, Eucharistic prayer – wants to hear the people, voice of assembly most important in singing parts
 - v. Offertory hymn (not as important) – sing one or two verses; music should follow actions of priest. Once washing of hands begins, music stops [Julie does instrumental for this – right on.]
 - vi. Closing (not as important; not in official rubrics of the mass, but) – should follow the actions of the priest; 1-2 verses OK.
 - vii. Cantor should provide energy for assembly to sing – leadership position (not alone).
 - viii. Musicians listen to people singing, back off when people singing.
Sheila turning things down so we can hear the people sing.
 - ix. We'll know when to change mass parts (music). [Sometimes switch for liturgical seasons: Advent, Lent]
 - b. Liturgy.com for choosing music for mass (OCP)
 - c. On polarization in church
 - i. Concentrate on being active listener
 - ii. Don't try to sway

- d. Upcoming Concert: Voices in the Hall @ Carnegie Hall
- 3. Recommendations
 - a. Would love to have all music together (front with Julie); important to keep Julie up front so she can see actions of the mass and play accordingly, which she does beautifully
 - b. Julie has a precision in what she does to support mass; anything we do is in addition to her beautiful service.
 - c. Psalm – cantor from front**
- B. Seeking support
 - 1. Greeters – ask by name!
 - a. Announcement at end of mass
 - b. Marguerite and Kerry wave hands to chat with people
 - 2. Pastoral Council drive – ask by name!
 - a. Andrew Turner
 - b. Others?
 - 3. Add to Connection Card list sacristan (setting up and clean up after mass) –
 - a. Marguerite working with people to train, take duties
 - b. tries to rotate first person, make sure things are set up
 - c. have clean up after mass – put vessels in sacristy
 - i. Linens (identify what needs to be done)
 - ii. Sign up for cleaning church at back of church
 - iii. Bishop's Printing for printing Connection Cards
- C. Webster Paving sealing driveway – update
 - 1. Happened, walkway in front of church much nicer
 - 2. Driveway needs to be repaved
- D. Parish Budget – update
 - 1. Should have finance council meeting (required to have 1 per year)
 - 2. Paid off all debts, bringing in more than we're spending
 - 3. What do we want to keep as reserve vs. finding a use for?
 - 4. Matthew will save everything, looking for feedback for good use of funds
 - 5. Should have something in reserve (for maintenance)
 - a. don't know what's coming down with settlement, what diocese will ask us for
 - b. Charged \$1K / year for lawyers
 - c. Need to pitch the Diocesan Appeal
 - d. Have bought CDs in past
 - 6. Proposed budget needs to go out to everyone in parish
 - a. Maureen will give Matthew what needs to be sent out in past
 - b. Matthew has good format for presenting budget to parish
 - c. Put on back tables (spring = proposed budget; FY begins July 1)
 - 7. Turned in financial reports, have not gotten feedback
- E. Parish Project Plan
 - 1. Next 48 hours: St. Mary's / Holy Cross Mass time publishing – update
 - a. Done: Matthew emailed Kerry last night with this
 - b. Put St. Mary's mass times on inside left panel**
 - c. Lighter green for reflection questions**
 - 2. Behind on Milestone #1 (speaker system)
 - a. Matthew thinks he can tuck a box behind St. Joseph
 - b. New mic cord to ambo
 - c. Just needs to make box and hook things up (all worked when tested)
 - d. New date for Milestone #1: By end of October sound system should be up**

- e. Chimes stopped working (lightning/storms scrambled system; after vacation, it was on, then lights off; something has died)
- 3. Finishing Milestone #2 (welcoming campaign)
 - a. Daily Star ad (would go under Catholic section in paper with St. Mary's)
 - Holy Cross / 98 Main St, Morris
 - Mass - Sunday 8:30 am / Bible Study - Saturday 9:00 am
 - <http://parishes.rcda.org/holycross>
 - Committed to growing in and / sharing the love of Jesus!
 - b. Kerry will call Daily Star about getting ad in**
 - c. Will try to get Scott at WVG about ad backstory**
 - d. Flyer in WVG – Matthew wants to address/update Facebook page first
 - i. Facebook page – John Lerhnahan started (passed away)
 - ii. Need to rebuild page; says 78 people following it
 - iii. Does wife Carol have information about page so we can access and revitalize?

Marguerite will call to see if there are records that would help us.
 - e. Connection cards updated
 - i. Kerry leaving “altar prep” rather than sacristan on cards (space, clarity)
 - ii. Matthew / Maureen work on printing Connections Card this week;
 - iii. If not successful, will look at Bishop’s Printing
 - iv. Need KEEP in pews, on back tables (need a large enough stack to keep pews filled)
 - f. Bulletin for posting on website before weekend
 - i. Email updates How often? When we’ve missed something (bulletin, after mass, something comes in between times)
 - ii. Include link to bulletin and Pastoral Council Minutes on website – maybe in signature
- F. Fixing Pews! Put on parish plan – Advent deadline?
 - 1. Mike Stensland has ideas on how to fix (doesn’t have time)
 - Kerry can work on weekends in November, willing to be part of crew to fix
 - 2. Can we rebuild, use a slider with stop?
 - a. Sliders – 12” at most
 - b. Need to slide far enough – slide further out for kneeling and far enough in we don’t trip over them
 - c. Rich will look to see if there’s something suitable for the pews we have – will let us know what he finds**
- G. New Business
 - 1. Ambo on altar again?
 - ~~a. Engage Fr. Chris? Matthew can ask~~
 - b. General consensus: Most people are fine with it where it is as long as wiring can be done; current ambo too large for altar
 - 2. Railings on both sides of altar for ease of access – future plan (put in project plan)
 - 3. Christmas season – Matthew would like:
 - a. Advent fair, wreaths to make
 - Ivy Stensland volunteering at Cobleskill church fair, will let us know what it is/involves**
 - b. St. Mary’s sends letter with Christmas schedule: Our Mass 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Vigil –
 - i. get ready to send letter out to all in parish, include the inactive people!
 - ii. Send week of Thanksgiving so it gets to people before Advent
 - 4. Maureen talking to Morris Central School about Giving Tree**
- H. Upcoming
 - 1. Rosary after mass next Sunday, October 20
 - 2. Next meeting: Sunday, November 10 after mass**