

# COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parish

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*Date | time* January 14, 2025 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

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## In Attendance

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Fr. Gregory- Pastor

Pat Moynihan- Chair

Karen Melendez

Karl Ittner- Vice Chair

Kay Campbell- Scribe

Sarah Flynn

Joann Holaday

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## Approval of Minutes

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The minutes were reviewed for the December meeting. The initial motion to accept was put forward by Karl and seconded by Karen to accept the minutes. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

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## Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

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Kay provided the opening and closing prayers. The choices were personal, unique in that they were a blend of established prayers or bits of sermons that have been paired up with private faith considerations. The prayers were presented to the committee as daily prayers, used to ground and focus the day.

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## Pastor's Comments

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Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

December Kids Fun Day: Fr. Gregory spoke with enthusiasm about Nadine's incredible "fun" stations at the event, reporting that the event was well attended and that the children in attendance appeared to be having a great time.

Children's Christmas Program: The church was full! The performance has drawn nothing but praise in the feedback received- the children did well in their roles, the music was beautiful and it was a great event that drew in members of the parish of all ages. Joann related that in addition to enjoying the event, she was pleased with how resources were utilized in a manner that maximized their usefulness and was environmentally friendly.

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## Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exultate

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The Lord Calls (26 - 31) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

The discussion that occurred during the reading started with the differences between prioritizing peace and calm in your personal life and the peace that accompanies engagement in a spiritual life, in being generous in interactions with others.

The discussion included also, about the need to be mindful of the types of distraction competing for attention via work, social media, social commitments and overloaded personal schedules. The value in prioritizing time and space to engage in prayer, faith and pushing away distractions was shared. Paragraph 27 emphasized this theme.

Lastly, there was discussion about the references of evangelization. Kay had an initial impression about the text talking about public evangelizing efforts. Fr. Gregory clarified the intended meaning which took the conversation in a different direction.

In sum, "...We need a spirit of holiness capable of filling both our solitude and our service, our personal life and our evangelizing efforts, so that every moment can be an expression of self-sacrificing love in the Lord's eyes."

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### Refreshments:

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Refreshments were generously provided by Karen. The beverage was a smash hit!! Karen also generously shared how she made the banana bread, which was delicious.

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### Minutes

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A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes by Karl and seconded by Karen. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

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### Reports and Updates

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#### Old Business

- Playground Committee Update: (Fr. Gregory) confirmed that money from the Bishops Appeal will be put towards the new playground this year. Joann informed the committee that additional updates will be available at the next meeting.
- Jubilee Year 2025: (Pat) Remains scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at St. Therese. Ann Foster is hostess as chair of the Justice and Charity committee. Pat related tasks that still needed volunteers.
  - a. Set up and Greet Guests: Kay, Sarah F. and Karen
  - b. Youth: Need 3 older (teen) youth to act as ushers. Linda Gregory will organize this.
  - c. Youth: Need 2 younger youth to pass out programs and candles: Sarah and Joann volunteered their daughters to help.
  - d. Experienced Usher: Karl agreed to help supervise the younger ushers to keep them on track.
  - e. Four adults will be needed to light candles.

Council Members were reminded to wear their name tags.

The council was informed that the participating churches have been assigned food, the council does not organize that. Having the assigned food tasks among the churches, it will prevent too much of one food type and not enough of another.

- Haiti Art: (Walter- not present, Pat read notes) The sale at Christmas time was very successful, bringing in \$930.00 in sales. Most of the available art sold. There continues to be challenges in linking with the bank in Haiti to transfer funds to the appropriate account but efforts continue. There is a Zoom mtg scheduled to get additional information.

## New Business

- Parish Renewal: (Kay) Reported that per Fr. Gregory's request, some research done into a program called ChristLife as a potential ministry for the church. Kay compared it to CPR for faith. ChristLife is a structured program, a 21-week program, broken down into 3 distinct categories. The first is called "Discovering Christ", the 2<sup>nd</sup> is called "Following Christ" and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is called "Sharing Christ". Each segment is 7 weeks. Kay shared that the course was designed to provide practical approaches and tools to use in engaging others in any discussion of evangelization and community. There was a prior attempt to bring ChristLife to St. Therese in 2020, just prior to the pandemic outbreak. COVID-19 stalled the implementation at that time. Discussion included:
  - a. Fr. Gregory felt that it would be a wonderful addition to our parish. He also related that ChristLife was started in Charlottesville while he was Pastor there and is still an active ministry of their church. Fr. Gregory was able to share additional information about how the program works. There would be training for any members that were interested in engaging in this program. Fr. Gregory will approach original parishioners that were interested to see if they are still interested.
  - b. The committee discussed how such a course would be implemented here at St. Therese. Sarah suggested that potentially waiting until September when school starts up. Karen mentioned that the schedule would also have to be cross referenced to make sure it doesn't conflict with other planned events. Fr. Gregory shared that he has encountered young, single men that have asked Fr. Gregory for more information on the Catholic faith. The brochure that Kay brought to the meeting was passed around the group. The council discussed/questioned how this differs from the "The Anchored in Christ Pgm." already hosted by Deacon Jose/Karen. The council determined that additional consideration was warranted but no action steps were established tonight.
- Daffodil Festival (April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>): (Pat) The space for the St. Therese booth has been reserved. There isn't a guarantee that the same space can be secured again but, the request was made. Discussion included:
  - a. Karl is looking into banners. He described the dimensions (9' x 1.5') and colors he has in mind and reports that they are not expensive.
  - b. T-shirts: Two different options discussed but the committee really liked what Sarah had to say about her contact, which basically, is an all in one option. Sarah reported that there were options regarding material type, that there was an option to order online and the council would only have to distribute. Sarah also described a fund raiser component, that funds would be raised for each shirt sold that could be directed back to a church project or goal. Sarah agreed to get quotes for sweatshirts and for youth sizes. The price range is roughly \$19.00 to \$26.00, based on quantity ordered.
  - c. Magnets: Two different designs for the magnets were discussed. Both designs had the image of St. Therese. For a quantity of 50 magnets, individual magnets would be approximately \$1.50 each.
  - d. Trifold pamphlet: Content ideas were discussed. Easter Services will be included with the intent to draw potential new parish members. The council also discussed including a St. Therese program insert.
  - e. Other ideas: Sarah suggested handing out some of the St. Therese pens. Kay was asked to approach Betty about small crocheted animals to hand out to children. The idea of having Lori Lynn Holaday (Little Miss Daffodil 2025) visit our booth was also discussed.

- Vision Statement: the wording of the Vision Statement was brought up by Fr. Gregory, who requested feedback. The idea of streamlining some of the wording might be a good idea.

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## Announcements

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Committee resignation: The committee was informed that Dennis has had to resign from the committee due to a significant medical concern. Prayers for Dennis were encouraged. This is going to open up a position in the committee.

Thanks to Karen for refreshments and to Kay for the opening and closing prayers.

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## Next Meeting

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February 11, 2024 at 7pm

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## Closing Prayer

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The closing prayer was offered by Kay.

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## Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.