

COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parish

Date | time February 13, 2025 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

In Attendance

Fr. Gregory- Pastor
Pat Moynihan- Chair
Karen Melendez
Sarah Linsmeyer
Kay Campbell- Scribe
Joann Holaday
Eric Scott
Walter Priest

Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

Pat provided the opening and closing prayers. The choices were focused on the work of the committee, to encourage mindfulness and thoughtfulness to the updates that would be presented and the steps the committee would move forward with in making the St. Therese parish a welcoming place of worship.

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

Housekeeping: Father Gregory alerted the committee to a schedule change for the Parish Council. The meeting in April will be held on April 1st. Fr. Gregory informed the council members that he will be in West Point, on the currently scheduled night, hearing Confession as part of the Lenten preparation for that Parrish.

Jubilee 2025: The general consensus is that the joint Jubilee service went very well. Pat referenced the homily which emphasized how we are all different but ultimately the same community. Feedback also included that the choirs from the different churches blended beautifully and the music was excellent. Committee feedback also included that the attending guests literally had to be told when it was time to go home. No one was in a rush to leave, the mark of success if there ever was one. Father Gregory said that the difference was that at our parish, there was a place to sit down together for a meal, which promotes conversation.

Spiritual Reading: Fr. Gregory is recommending a book titled "Blessed Julian of Norwich" for further insights into our faith.

Vision Statement: Wasn't read this evening per Fr. Gregory's request. He is currently working on a revised, updated wording of the Vision Statement.

Pianist: The Parish has a new pianist. Fr. Gregory solicited feedback to general impressions of his music so far at Masses. The feedback was positive and the pianist is integrating well with the choir.

Youth Conference: Two youth of our parish attended the conference in Richmond this past week. Three were originally scheduled to attend, but, one of them was ill and unable to go. The committee discussed how it was a great opportunity to meet and worship with others their age and the impact it will have on their faith development.

Baptismal Font: Fr. Gregory relayed that Tim Brown, of the K of C council, has shared that the work for the new Baptismal font will be complete by Easter.

Confirmation: Fr. Gregory also announced that Jeff Allen will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 2/16/25 at the 10:30am Mass.

Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

More Alive, More Human (starting paragraph 32) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

The discussion started with a brief education on St. Josephine Bakhita, who experienced trauma, enslavement and trafficking but still was utterly devoted to God, despite her experiences. A theme of “don’t be afraid of holiness” and the need to be faithful to your deepest self. We are not to be afraid of being called, the call comes to each of us. The council talked about the impact of allowing the Holy Spirit to take control. The quote was shared, “Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.”

Also discussed was philosophies that lead people astray. One was Gnosticism, which the Holy Father calls “...an intellect without God and without flesh...” and he describes it as a superficial, egocentric perception of faith. The other philosophy was Pelagianism, which is a belief that a person is capable of attaining their salvation simply by doing good works and through their own achievements. They disavow a need for church, sacraments and other elements of the faith and faithful.

Refreshments:

Refreshments were generously provided by Eric, who went over the top. He brought in a baked ziti dinner, complete with salad and dessert. Everyone ate, whether they already had dinner or not.

Minutes

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

Reports and Updates

Old Business

Playground Committee Update: Joann reports that Pat and Nan have been meeting with companies for estimates and planning for a 49 x 49-foot play equipment set up, reminding the group that playsets under 50 feet do not require permits. The play area will be 8 feet from the Pavilion and 8 feet from the road. There was a suggestion to repurpose the existing shed into a shaded sitting area for parents, allowing them to remain within line of sight of their children at play.

Cost Options include:

Wooden Option: (smaller) \$28,000.00 includes taxes and shipping but not labor to install. The larger wooden option is \$38,000.00, which also includes taxes and shipping.

For Plastic/Metal Option: An estimate runs from \$11,000.00 - \$16,000.00, but, that does not include shipping, taxes or installation.

There was a lengthy discussion, taking a large amount of time available about the playground planning. The discussion included

- a. To do a fundraiser, we would need to have some money in hand at the start.
- b. The Knights of Columbus requests that members of the Parish Council attend their 3/6/25 meeting to address their questions regarding their ability to assist with the project. The K of C council would need 2 months to address the issue and approve.
- c. The Diocesan Risk Management and Renovation Commission has to be informed of the planned playground.
- d. Deb Knarr shared information via council member regarding the rosary walk for parcels 11, 12 & 13 in terms of how it impacts the tax status for the parish. Pat recommends a subcommittee for the rosary walk and related issues.
- e. The committee was informed that Jim has posted the 49x49 boundaries for those who wish to go see that proposed site.
- f. Walter proposed that based on the anticipated costs, that perhaps the playground installation should be approached in phases. He suggested starting with an initial set up and add phases over a calculated period of time.
- g. **Action steps include:**
Feedback will go to the large playground committee as they will be deciding on the design and cost. Feedback will include:
The rosary walk subcommittee recommendation.
Obtaining an estimate for mulch, railroad ties and potentially gravel.
Attending the March Knight of Columbus meeting

New Business

Parish Renewal:

- a. Men of St. Joseph: The 3rd meeting occurred this week, Eric there were 18 men were in attendance. Deacon Jose and John Flynn co-lead the group and Mark Z. is in charge of communication. Meetings are on Monday evenings at the church.
- b. Fiat 90: Members of two different small groups of the current Fiat 90 were present in the meeting. Karen, Kay and Pat were able to share their thoughts on the goals of the group. Karen noted that the next large meeting is coming soon where all the small groups will meet together.

Daffodil Festival (April 5th and 6th):

- a. There was discussion about the magnets and stickers that would be handed out at the festival. The committee learned that the dimensions would be 3"x5" and following discussion, there was a consensus that the design would be oval and on one half, there would be a picture of St. Therese and the other would have the name of our church.
Fr. Gregory wasn't satisfied with the photo on the demo sticker. **Action step:** Eric agreed to ask Jerry Trudeau about photographing our statue of St. Therese and using that instead.
- b. The committee decided that the banner will say St. Therese Catholic Church as opposed to The Church of St. Therese. There was heartfelt discussion that there is a need to specify that this is a Roman Catholic community.

- c. T-shirts: In Sarah F's absence, Karen reported the cost for a polo shirt will be \$20.00- \$23.00, sweatshirts would also be approximately \$20.00 and hoodies would be approximately \$25.00. The cost would be based on a bulk purchase of 100. The last day to order shirts is March 14th. Then there was a discussion of whether to have the embroidery or screen print option for the logo. **Action step:** Karen is going to request feedback about what the prices would look like for 50 shirts. The Bingo group submitted a logo for their shirts which was presented at the meeting. Their shirts are to supplement the festival shirt order to reach the bulk goal. While the design was lovely, the Bingo group wants a tag line that is not the St. Therese Parish tag line. **Action step:** Pat is going to talk with Donna of the Bingo Committee to share that their tag line needs to match the church's tag line
- d. Crocheted animals: Kay provided an example of the crocheted animals (small orange octopus) that Betty has agreed to make as handouts to small children at the festival. To date, Betty reports having 40 various animals completed and she continues to be working on more. **Action step:** The committee agreed that one of the shirts would be given to Betty as an acknowledgement gift for her contribution to the festival.

Next Meeting

March 11, 2024 at 7pm

Acknowledgements and Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Pat.

Thanks to Eric for refreshments and to Pat for the opening and closing prayers.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.