

**St. Francis de Sales Parish
Pastoral Parish Council (PPC) meeting
November 19, 2024**

Present

Bro. Paul Hoffman, Fr. Mike Nartker, Holly Schwein, John Bruening, Scott Gueterman, John Mitchell, Rosemary Byes, Lee Burroughs, Joanna Browarsky, Jim Vogt, David Hulefeld

Not Present

Mary Kishman

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Bro. Paul led Parish Council with an opening prayer.

School Update

Joanne Browarsky provided a school update to Parish Council from the Education Council Report. A copy of the report is provided as a separate attachment.

Joanne shared that needs of the school are teacher retention, staff appreciation and capital improvements, specifically a need to replace the drafty windows in the school building.

Synod Listening Session

Jim Vogt and David Hulefeld presented a summary report on the Synod listening session held on Sept 25th. Insights were shared on parish strengths and areas for improvement and growth. Focus areas are the need to attract younger people, social justice and gathering insights from former St. Anthony parishioners. Jim and David asked parish council to decide what steps should be taken to follow up.

Financial Update

John Mitchell presented the fiscal year 2023/24 annual report after both Masses on October 27. A copy of the report was attached to the bulletin. The parish financial position is strong. The next Finance Council meeting is on Thursday, November 21. Elizabeth Gibson is being hired to assist Gloria Sweet with parish finances. The process will begin on the 2024/25 budget.

Rectory Roof

John Bruening reported that the Rectory roof work is 98% complete. The scaffolding will start to come down. It was decided to not replace the rotted window frames on the third floor at this time. They will be covered with a bronze cladding.

Recruitment of New Members

The Worship Commission is considering inviting new members to meet between the Sunday Masses. Phil Louis created more welcome cards with a QR code to be placed in church.

Energy Assessment Report

An energy assessment report on the parish facilities conducted by the University of Dayton was provided to parish council to review. Energy usage was analyzed using utility bills. Existing energy efficiencies noted were use of LED lighting, thermostat control when church is not in use and the chilled water system in the rectory.

Areas identified in the report as opportunities to save energy include:

- Installing solar panels
- Refine thermostat control on third floor of the school
- Install thermal mimic gel pack on cafeteria refrigerator and freezer
- Install energy efficient windows in the school classrooms

It was agreed that replacing the classroom windows should be given priority. It was decided to continue controlling the HVAC blowers during Mass due to the noise level.

Parish News

Bro. Paul provided updates on the parish:

- Although Mass attendance for the month of October was down, the yearly average is up from 2023. October Mass attendance was 1,004 compared to 1,253 in October 2023.
- The average weekly Mass attendance for 2024 year to date is 242.
- Brother Bill Grundish is now at our Health Care Community at St. Leonard in Centerville. It is a rehab assignment and he could be back in December if he makes progress.
- Thanksgiving Eve Mass is on Wednesday, November 27 at 5:30 p.m. in Church.
- Parish Offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday.
- Immaculate Conception Mass (Holy Day of Obligation) will be in the Church on Monday, December 9 at 5:30 p.m.
- The Giving Tree for gifts to St. Francis de Sales School and Mercy Neighborhood Ministries will begin this Sunday, November 24.
- Xavier University Christmas Concert will be on Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Church
- Young Professional Choral Collection Christmas Concert will be on Saturday, December 14 in Church.
- St. Francis de Sales School Christmas Concert will be on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Church.
- Father Mike and Brother Paul attended a meeting of Marianists involved in Marianist Sponsored Parishes on Thursday, November 14 in St. Louis. The Marianist Provincial Council continues to strongly support the Marianist presence at St. Francis de Sales.
- Brother Bernie Ploeger, Assistant Provincial of the Marianist Province of the United States, will visit the St. Francis de Sales Marianists this Thursday through Sunday November 21-23, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Copy of Ed Council School Report 11-19-24

Using our school mission statement as my outline, the following highlights some big-picture highlights so far this school year. I tried to be a little wordier since it looks like we are not meeting in person this evening -

Rooted in Faith

- We are fully hired except for finding a replacement for Joe Leonardi, our Campus Minister and 4 - 8 religion teacher. For this reason, homeroom teachers in grades 3 - 5 (serendipitously all Catholic!) took on an additional teaching prep of religion; the AP Mike Mohr is teaching 6th grade religion; and I am teaching 7th & 8th. While I have greatly enjoyed stepping back into the classroom for a third of the day, it has certainly been an added challenge making sure all of the other essential pieces get done!
- We are now in year two of writing our own Missionary Spirit Virtue program; modeled after the Virtues in Practice Program we adopted two accreditation cycles ago, a different virtue is “practiced” each month, with a continued focus on the saints and putting that virtue into practice. Finally, our student of the month in each homeroom is celebrated for best exemplifying that virtue throughout the month.
- Susan LaMacchia, the K - 2 religion teacher, the floor captains, and I are finalizing our November service project. We believe we are going to make sandwiches for St. Francis Seraph Ministries, dividing up responsibilities by grade level (ie. primary grades might decorate the brown paper bags); we also want to do a drive collecting winter gloves and hats for the Mary Magdalene House, the Service to Others ministry focus for November.

Achieving Excellence

- Our staff met for their first Records Day last Friday, November 15. We also hosted a collaborative CISE PD with Correyville Catholic and St. Francis Seraph on Nov. 1; teachers met with content and grade-level colleagues to review best practice instructional practices, led by various Hamilton County Instructional Coaches, as well as how they can utilize Fall Map data to most effectively plan for instructional groupings and small group instruction.
- Incorporating both Faith and Excellence, we will have a special blessing for our 8th graders at our Mass of Thanksgiving this Friday, Nov. 22. A new practice we are implementing this year, they will receive their class shirts and optional hoodies from a faculty member and then the collective scholars and staff will extend a blessing reminding them of their role as leaders within the school community. I am really excited about starting this new tradition. I have also been in dialogue with Bruce Seidel, one of our volunteers and members of the parish, about extending an invitation to the parish to our Mass of Thanksgiving on Nov. 22 at 10:15.
- Father Mike and I have discussed briefly the very generous donation from Dr. Rae to set up a scholarship for an eighth-grade scholar, possibly two, annually. Fr. Mike is going to put a few key points out to the Education Council to consider between now and our next meeting. That way, we can all come prepared to give a meaningful contribution to this discussion.

Copy of Ed Council School Report 11-19-24

Serving Others

- Our scholars participated in our annual campus trick-or-treat on Halloween; this continues to be such a positive campus collaboration and really highlights the connectedness of our campus and the generosity of our stakeholders and our staff.
- We continue to host our monthly family engagement activities, the last one occurring in October; Phil Louis generously was our grill master; these evenings continue to be a positive community-building activity at a low cost (\$5 commitment fee) to our families.
- Both our after-school tutoring program and Xavier mentee program started back last month, just two examples of positive partnerships we have with the neighboring schools of SUA and Xavier University.
- Our pen pal connection with Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School, a Marianist “sister school in Nairobi, Kenya - that we just started last spring, continued this school year once both schools resumed. It proved to be tricky to get off the ground, with their school year ending sooner due to the rainy season I believe Sister Beatice referenced. However, our 5th grade teacher is working with our new 6 - 8 ELA teacher to make sure it continues. As I said last year, I’m really excited about this opportunity to globalize our academic program and actualize our goal of evangelization.
- As the 7th and 8th-grade religion teacher, I have reinstated a service hour requirement as a component of our religion class. And as I previously mentioned in the opening, we will do our first schoolwide service project this month!