

**St. Francis de Sales Parish  
Pastoral Parish Council (PPC) meeting  
January 21, 2025**

**Present**

Bro. Paul Hoffman, Fr. Mike Nartker, Holly Schwein, John Bruening, Scott Gueterman, Lee Burroughs, John Mitchell, Mary Kishman, David Hulefeld

**Not Present**

Rosemary Byes

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Bro. Paul led Parish Council with an opening prayer.

**School Update**

Joanne Browarsky sent the following email school update to Parish Council:

The school is busy preparing for our upcoming Open House this Sunday following the 11 AM mass. This also marks the official start to Catholic Schools Week (CSW) and Open Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. Dave Stein, our 3-5 instructional assistant, myself, and 5 select scholars in grades 4 - 8 will attend the Cincinnati CSW mass at the Cathedral next Tuesday. We are also planning a schoolwide service project for St. Francis Seraph Ministries that I am excited about, as each grade level is participating in a unique way.

We have a couple of exciting opportunities coming up for both our staff and our scholars. Our staff will have their next PD day which we call "Data Data" at the Hamilton County Ed Center on Feb. 10. We are also promoting a special outing to the Aronoff Center to see Step Afrika, The Story of Step (dance) on March 11 as an academic/behavior incentive for 9 scholars from each homeroom, grades 3 - 8. And grades PK-3 will see Schoolhouse Symphony next week here at school, and will also host the Newport Aquarium on Feb. 5 for "Wave on Wheels". Our teachers and staff are doing a phenomenal job connecting our scholars to the Arts and utilizing funding available to them to provide these opportunities for our scholars. Lastly, we will do an unprecedented incentive movie outing on February 14 for any scholar who meets both their reading and math Winter MAP goals. I will likely ask parishioners to donate to this cause in my next bulletin article to offset the cost of tickets or movie snacks.

**Worship Commission**

Mary Kishman suggested a reflection after the Wednesday masses during Lent. There are 5 topics with a speaker for each topic. There will be announcements after Mass the last two Sundays of February.

**Windows and HVAC Update**

After getting quotes to replace 126 windows in the school building, John Bruening suggested forming a task force to decide how to spend funds to upgrade the school windows and HVAC. The estimate to replace all of the windows is around \$400,000. To replace the rooftop AC units is \$175,000 and another \$70,000 to replace the Boiler in the basement. There is also an option to install a VRF system in the old section of the school. It was agreed as a next step to address this with Finance Council.

**Synod Follow Up**

Jim Vogt and John Mitchell are working to form a task force to address the follow up actions from the Synod listening session held in September. They are requesting one representative from each of the parish committees to participate in the task force.

## **Help Program**

The Help Program is dealing with a number of new issues and developments that have come up in the new year. The Board is meeting on Wednesday, January 22 to address this matter.

## **Finance Update**

John Mitchell reported Finance Council met on Thursday, January 16. The November financial statements were reviewed. The estate of Doctor Rae Hartman has gifted the parish with the intention to establish a scholarship fund for 8<sup>th</sup> graders at St. Francis de Sales School to attend a Catholic High School. Purcell Marian and St. Ursula High Schools have been asked to provide input in setting up a High School scholarship program. The initial award would fund tuition for 2 to 4 students. Joanna Browarsky will provide input on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

John Mitchell also reported \$4,800 is being spent to build an enclosure around the dumpster area.

## **Parish Updates**

Bro. Paul provided updates on the parish:

- Mass attendance in the year 2024 increased by 1,790 people from the year 2023.
- The average weekly Mass attendance for the 2024 year was 245.
- Christmas Masses were very well attended and up from last year. Christmas Eve 4:00 P.M. attendance was 676 and 8:00 P.M. was 159. Christmas Day had 123 for a total of 958 for all 3 Christmas Masses. This is up about 300 from 2023.
- With the recent snow events the Parish Office was closed for a few days. The closing did not create any problems.
- With the snow plowing, it has compromised a number of our parking spaces. Parking has been tight recently. Hopefully it will melt in the near future.
- Sunday, February 2 will be the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) collection supporting various ministry efforts in the Archdiocese.
- Sunday, February 2 will also be the day we offer throat blessings with the Church remembering St. Blaise next week.
- This is the Jubilee Year for the Universal Church. A year to encourage holiness through acts of reconciliation and communion with our brothers and sisters. We will be planning how to promote the theme throughout the year.
- No updates on Beacons of Light.
- Fr. Mike is planning parish retreats this year. The weekend of May 16-18 at Governor's Island and a Saturday day of reflection at Bergamo Center in Beavercreek, OH. Date to be announced.
- Fr. Mike is planning to continue the Marianist talks with Brother David Betz.
- Saturday, March 1 there will be a talk scheduled from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. at St. Francis de Sales.

## **Open Discussion**

David Hulefeld mentioned the Green Team is planning a trip to the Marianist Environmental Education Center on April 6.

Lee Burrough suggested having a volunteer fair at the March Donut Sunday in the school cafeteria. Each committee would be represented to share information and recruit new members.

**Meeting Adjourned - Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**