

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024 ~ 6:30 - 8:00pm | Conference Room

Parish Mission: Prince of Peace is a welcoming and engaged Catholic community dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through prayerful worship and sharing our gifts of charity, compassion, and service.

Parish Council Members X=Present			
	Deacon Jeff Prickette- Parish Administrator	X	Donell Bonetti- co chair/member at large
X	Doug Wichman- Secretary Trustee	X	Sara Shefchik- co chair/member at large
X	Jackie Goral- Discipleship	X	Deb Bos- Community Life
X	Jennifer Mahoney- member at large/Young Adult rep	X	Jenny Vandenlangenberg- Family and Youth Initiatives & PC secretary
X	Emily Myrda- Helping Hands	X	Barb Rueckl- Worship
X	Phyllis John- member at large (Welcoming)		

1. Prayer: Doug read a reflection he wrote titled "Snow". It is attached to these minutes for all to enjoy.
2. Sara brought forth an idea to have more interaction from Father Ryan, our Deacons, and maybe Fr. Mark Mleziva on or near Vocations Sunday which is April 21st this year. We agree that young people may be interested in learning more about how each of them heard the call to ministry and how/why they answered God's call. Getting it right from the perspective of a priest and/or deacon is important. Donell will talk with Jeff about how this can be incorporated into Mass that weekend or around it.
3. Jenny talked about a few updates from the FYI Committee. The Children's Collection will return to all Masses beginning in February. She sought the opinion of the council on putting together Blessing Bags that will be available for children to "check out" while they are here for Mass, then turn back in. They would include books about the Mass, Christian storybooks, lace up cards, etc. She will connect with some parish members that attend daily Mass to find a group that could wipe down and re-stock the items weekly. The FYI committee would be in charge of the program including purchasing and replenishing the items. We also talked about the beginning of a Childcare Ministry that could provide this service for some events once the new build is complete. All are in agreement that we should start out small, and strategically choose events that parents would want to attend together.

4. Donell will work with Red on communicating the results of the Room naming voting via a bulletin notice and a social media announcement.
5. The Spring Auction leadership group has expressed that more help is needed in the planning and execution of this event. Forming a stronger committee is necessary moving forward. The council feels that in the short term, it would be best to divide out the volunteer tasks needed, then clearly communicate them out to parish members. We also talked about ideas of potential staffing needs moving forward that may be of help in situations like this. These may include an Evangelization/Discipleship Coordinator or an Event Coordinator.
6. The Executive Committee met on Jan. 23rd. This group is made up of the Parish Council and Finance Chairpeople and the Trustees, and meets once or twice a year to assist Deacon Jeff with feedback and direction. Many of the items discussed were involving the growth of our parish and the good challenges it creates.
7. The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Steering Committee will meet on January 29th. Moving forward, the Religious Education and Youth and Young Adult Ministry monthly reports will be submitted to the Parish Council by the 4th Wednesday of every month. Prior to this they were submitted to the FYI Committee.
8. Committee logos update (see images below). The group reviewed the proposed Committee logos that were revised to have the same unifying fonts and shapes. The square shape is approved. Discipleship would like a darker colored font. The Social Committee square should be the same on Parish Life Tree as it is in the stand alone square. These can now be changed on the Parish website when time allows.
9. Everyone was in agreement that the All Committee Workshop speaker Kristin Bird was very thought provoking and engaging. Please bring back her message to your committees and discuss how you can become more like and create more missionary disciples. We may look at bringing Kristin back to speak for the whole parish at some point. We also would be looking for ideas for other large speakers we can bring in to engage our whole community.
10. September 7th 4:30 will be Mass and the blessing of the new building by Bishop Ricken. The Continuation Committee is also looking at the 2nd or 3rd weekend of June to be the grand opening. Plans are under way for an event with heavy hors d'oeuvres, music, tours, and a scavenger hunt in each room for kids to do. The FYI committee could help with that activity. Jenny will talk to Kody about this. We also talked about how Committees could be represented there by being integrated into the event itself. We can keep thinking about this and revisit at the next meeting.
11. Jackie asked if there was an easier way for people to donate that is not cash, such as a QR Code in pews to pay with their phone. This could be useful for

visitors, young people, and others that don't carry cash, but want to make a donation to the parish.

- 12. Jacob Mathys's Eagle Scout project will start this Spring. A statue has been purchased and he will coordinate the landscaping of the green space in front of the building addition.



The Meeting ended at 7:59.

The next meeting will be February 22 @ 5:00-6:00 with Stations of the Cross to follow.

2023-24 Liturgical Year Theme: Making Space for Jesus

Logo Drafts: Consistent, clear font for Committee names; square vs. circular for more area for the committee name; light background with darker font for visibility in print and digital





Snow

Whether or not you like the snow there is no arguing its beauty. The snow changes everything it touches. The trees, whose leaves fluttered to the ground many weeks prior, cling to the snow, hoping to hold some of its beauty. Every branch and twig boasts its new covering as if to say, "Look at me and my new coat." The evergreens, whose handsome appearance know no season, are frosted white. Their looks enhanced as to take away the breath of every eye in the forest. Even the grasses and shrubs, long gone dormant and brown, become a new landscape that glistens in the sun as bright as early morning dew in a season long past.

Snow is transformative. Everything it touches somehow becomes new again. An old fence or a rotting stump are changed from eyesore to encore. A neglected barn becomes a picture waiting for a worthy artist to capture its newfound style. The snow can even transform us. A walk outside will fill you with a clean crisp air your lungs crave. And if you're not in awe of the beauty brought to the world around you by a newfallen snow I'm afraid you're not paying attention.

Our faith can be like that snow. It is transformative. It can change how we see the world. Everything it touches can become new again. The sacraments, those very precious gifts, given to us by Jesus Himself, can fill you with all that your soul craves. There is beauty to be seen, in every inch of God's creation. In every child of God, no matter their appearance, there is loveliness to behold. It is through the eyes of our faith, and the actions of the sacraments that we are able to behold all that God has laid out before us.

Let it snow.

Written by: Doug Wichman

Faith Formation/Religious Education Report to FYI

January 18, 2024

1. REGISTRATIONS - Registration for the 2023-2024 Religious Education year is currently at 233 students registered.
2. GRADE LEVEL MASSES – Our grade-level Masses continue once a month with students by taking part as servers, ushers, greeters, lectors, and choir members. January 21st is our 4th graders at 10:00 AM Mass. Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 6PM is our 8 th graders and Sunday, February 18th, at 10 AM is our 3rd graders turn. Lastly, March 17 th is our 2nd graders at 10 AM.
3. TOGETHER IN FAITH – Our next Together in Faith Family Night is January 24 th from 6:00-7:15 PM. It is titled “Living the Liturgical Year: The Story of our Faith. We will begin with a presentation explaining the Liturgical Year and then families will break into six groups and rotate every 5-6 minutes between the stations. The stations will reflect the seasons in the Liturgical Year: Advent Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Holy Week/Triduum, and Easter. I have leaders for each station. We have one Together in Faith left on March 20 th .
4. GRADE 2 – Students in Grade 2 will come for class on January 31, February 28 and March 13. The students in grades 1, 3, 4, 5-6 will have a take home lesson and not be in-person on those 3 dates. Grades 7-9 will meet at their regular time on those dates. The First Eucharist retreat is February 3 from 8:30-10:30 with First Communion on April 14 at 1:00.
5. CONSTRUCTION – As stated earlier, the main offices are already moved to the Fellowship Hall and remodeling will begin in the Conference Room and current office area soon. This means that all classes will now be held in church only. As mentioned above, there are a few weeks where grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 will have an at-home lesson, so that grade 2 can meet and have sacramental prep for First Communion. Neil and I are working on the presentations/topics when all classes meet in church.
6. VBS - The VBS registration will open soon. I am looking at the VBS theme for this summer to be either Come to the Table or the Marvelous Mystery of the Mass as they focus on the Eucharist. The kit isn't ordered yet, but we will begin planning in more detail soon.
7. 2024-2025 RE Year – We are looking at the logistics of how things will work next year after the new addition is completed. Ideally, we would like to get everything down to one time for families (2 at most). If we have room, we talked about a parent component for those who would like to stay. We would use The Chosen, Search, Symbolon, or other programs on Formed and add a social element as well. I could not lead that as I will be busy with the kids, but it would be awesome to engage the parents during that time.
8. RCIA/RCIC - Neil and I continue to work with 2 students that will be baptized and receive First Communion at the Easter Vigil. We have 2 older students that were baptized but haven't received First Communion yet. They received First Reconciliation last week and First Communion will most likely occur with the 2 nd graders on April 14.

9. GOSPEL TIME – I have notes to go home with our Gospel Time students this Sunday that is asking for leaders and helpers for Gospel Time.

10. UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

Jan. 21 Grade 4 10:00 AM Mass

Jan. 21 Grade 10-11 Class begins with 6PM Mass.

Jan. 24 Together in Faith Family Night 6:00-7:15 in Church

Jan. 28 Grade 10-11 Class begins with 6PM Mass.

Jan. 31 RE Classes at 4:30 or 5:45 (Gr. 2 only) & 7PM (Gr. 7-9)

Grades 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have an At-Home Lesson

Feb. 3 First Eucharist Retreat 8:30-10:30 AM

Feb. 4 Grade 10-11 Class begins with 6PM Mass

Feb. 7 RE Classes at 4:30 or 5:45 (Gr. 1-6) & 7PM (Gr. 7-9)

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Mass 4:30 and 6 (Grade 8 at 6PM)

In Christ,

Theresa Williams

Director of Religious Education

Prince of Peace Catholic Community

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Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report to FYI

Jan 25th, 2024

1. PURPOSE/10th GRADE– These classes continue to bear fruit. We've received a few testimonials from parents and students about the benefits they have experienced from attending our classes. The Holy Spirit wants us to know we're doing well!
2. LIFETEEN AND EDGE – Now that the build is in full swing, we've had to make format changes and space changes, etc. but the classes remain strong in content and in effect.
3. YOUNG ADULT – Apart from our continuing planning meetings, and our assistance at a few other Ministries (RE, Confirmation, Together in Faith, and VIDA projects) the YAM has languished due to a lack of participation. This demographic is arguably the most difficult to reach in the entire Church and POP is not below that average. However, averages are not goals. This ministry is the greatest area of need: Planning, and volunteer assistance.
4. YOUTH GROUP- The next youth group event is set for Feb 6th at Urban Battlefield laser tag. This is more of a popcorn event, but we've got 36 participants, and nearly 1/3 of them are non-parishioners that were invited to attend. We tick 3 boxes with this event: Promote the Youth Group, Evangelization, forge and cement bonds within our community.
5. RCIA- We continue to have a surge of YA and Youth participants in our RCIA programs. There are currently 9 persons of YA or Youth age within the program, and they receive instruction multiple days per week and are also being guided into relationship with the wider parish.

6. EAST SIDE PLANNING GROUP – Last meeting on Jan 23rd. Takeaways: Collaborate for Mission trip, collaborate for Steubenville conference, joint recreation events (sledding, “winter games”), Collaborate on increasing parish participation (recruiting). The Diocese has taken note of this group and sent Kately and Tommy from the office of Youth and Families to assist with resources.
7. NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE – I was invited to represent the Youth and Young Adults of the GB Diocese at the national Eucharistic conference in July. There will be over 60k people in attendance and speakers from around the world as well as most if not all the Bishops of the US and several delegates from the Vatican. There will be more details forthcoming but, after speaking with Dcn Jeff I accepted the invitation. I will share info as it becomes available to me. This is a tremendous honor, but also an invaluable experience for the Eucharistic formation of our Parish and our Diocese.
8. UPCOMING DATES- PURPOSE/10th – Jan 28th, Feb 4th, Feb 18th, Feb 25th
9. UPCOMING DATES- YOUTH GROUP- Feb 6th, March (not set), April (not set)
10. UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING– Jan 29th

Neil Saindon
Dir. Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Prince of Peace Catholic Community