

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024 ~ 5:00-6:00pm | Stations of the Cross @ 6pm

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			
x	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. Opening Prayer was led by Phyllis.
2. Youth Ministry and Young Adult Committee update: The short term Steering Committee met on Jan. 29 & Feb. 8. Kody reported that the group received the answers needed and have a good path forward. They clarified the duties and focuses between the FYI Committee, Young Adult Committee, Director of RE (Theresa) and Youth and Young Adult Director (Neil). There is an immediate need to build up the Youth Group core team and Young Adult committee to be sustainable. Next steps: Use this time of year as the new budgets are created to make task oriented deadlines and goals. Kody and Jeff will lead this effort.
3. The new building's Grand Opening Celebration will be June 8th following the 4:30 Mass. It is being planned by the Continuation Committee and will include music, food, and tours. If committees want to get involved to help serve, clean up, or provide an activity they should submit it to the Continuation Committee. They will be meeting on March 5th. Red will be invited to help the group decide the best ways to promote the event and also think about ideas of how to incorporate committee information at the event. An idea is to have name tags that say "Ask me about ___ Committee"
4. We talked about the wall decor that would be added into each of the rooms that are named after Saints. The Council feels it's ok to hold off on these purchases and that there should not be a rush to complete this. Eventually, we can look for a small group that has passion to do this work as the project progresses.
5. Committee Spotlights: We feel that the last time these were conducted, it produced a positive outcome, and the council is in favor of doing this in some fashion again. Kody let us know that the process of informing new members how they can get involved is being shored up and will get rolling out in the upcoming months. He talked about connecting with them after 6 months of joining the parish, then a one year check in to ask how they can get involved. Each committee could consider creating a printed piece that can be included with new member welcome materials, and more. We are requesting that Red attend the next meeting in March to discuss these ideas to make sure we can all get on the same page with what would work most effectively.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 21st 5:00-6:00.

Faith Formation/Religious Education Report to FYI

February 19, 2024

- 1. REGISTRATIONS** - Registration for the 2023-2024 Religious Education year is still currently at 233 students registered.
- 2. GRADE LEVEL MASSES** – Our grade-level Masses continue once a month with students participating by taking part as servers, ushers, greeters, lectors, and choir members. Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 6PM was our 8th graders turn and Sunday, February 18th, at 10 AM was our 3rd graders turn. Our last grade level Mass is Sunday, March 17th with our 2nd graders at 10 AM. The families seem to really enjoy this and the students have done an outstanding job!
- 3. TOGETHER IN FAITH** – Our Together in Faith Family Night on January 24th was titled “Living the Liturgical Year: The Story of our Faith. We began with a presentation explaining the Liturgical Year and then divided families into six groups and rotated every 7-8 minutes between the stations. The stations reflected the seasons in the Liturgical Year: Advent Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Holy Week/Triduum, and Easter. There were lots of positive comments from families on what they learned during the evening. We have one Together in Faith left on March 20th which will be centered around the Station of the Cross.
- 4. GRADE 2** – Students in Grade 2 will come for class on February 28 and March 13. The students in grades 1, 3, 4, 5-6 will have a take home lesson for that night. Grades 7-9 will meet at their regular time on those dates. The First Eucharist retreat was February 3 and went well despite our lack of space. We were still able to make bread as we set up in the Gathering space and the catechists baked the bread while we went into church. First Communion will be on April 14 at 1:00.
- 5. CONSTRUCTION** – As stated earlier, the main offices are already moved to the Fellowship Hall and remodeling has begun in the Conference Room and office areas. All classes are now being held in church only. The first week we covered Lent. The format is working well having everyone in church. We did have the grade 1-2 students go into the Gathering Space for 10 minutes or so to do a project while the older students did a small group breakout group. As mentioned before, 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 weekly presentations/topics when all classes meet in church. This week is 10 commandments.
- 6. VBS** – We have been advertising that VBS registration opens February 22. Children in grades K-6 may register. The cost is \$35. Students in grades 7 and up and adults may volunteer to help during the week of VBS Camp from July 22-26th. The VBS theme for this summer is Marvelous Mystery of the Mass which focuses on the Eucharist to coincide with the Eucharistic Revival. The kit has arrived, and we will begin forming the committee to begin planning soon.
- 7. 2024-2025 RE Year** – Registration for 24-25 will open sometime in Mid-March. 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 two times on Wednesdays. Most likely 1-6 at an earlier time and middle/high school at a later time. In surveying students, Wednesdays were preferred over Sunday nights, so we are going to try to fit everyone in on Wednesdays. 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, so maybe Discipleship could help with that.

8. RCIA/RCIC - Neil and I continue to work with Luca and Sofeya who 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. Their First Communion will most likely occur with the 2nd graders on April 14.

9. GOSPEL TIME – Gospel Time can still use additional leaders and helpers. I have gotten 2 new helpers. We are currently having over 40 children coming each week which fills the bride's room. Once we have more space, I would like to invite a few adults to come sit in with us and watch to see if they might be interested in leading or helping, but right now the children fill that entire room. We are doing some videos and songs to accompany the lessons as there is no space for projects.

10. UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

Feb. 25 Grade 10-11 Class begins with 6PM Mass.

Feb. 28 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

Mar. 3 Grade 10-11 Class begins with 6PM Mass.

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

Mar. 10 Grade 10-11 Class begins with 6PM Mass.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

In Christ,

Theresa Williams
Director of Religious Education

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report to FYI Feb 22nd, 2024

- 1. PURPOSE/10th GRADE**– As classes wind down, the new plan will be to start sessions of 'The Search' from Formed.org and use them as a stop gap for those recently confirmed and slightly older. This will be a lot of advertising and will take some really dedicated volunteers, but we can make this happen. The program is turn-key, we just need about 4 people in addition to Neil to form the core team for this ministry.
- 2. LIFETEEN AND EDGE** – Classes have moved into Church on alternate weeks, which has been a blessing (Near the Blessed Sacrament) and a curse (NOISE AND DECORUM! Lol) but the feedback from kids and parents is still very positive so we're having an impact on the culture as well as the students.
- 3. YOUNG ADULT** – The recent meetings of the steering committee have shed light on our need to redouble our effort in this ministry. Again, the volunteer numbers are not where they need to be to pull off any real events or major ministries. I have a committee down from 9 to 3 and we are still rebuilding it. We did gain some new members for the committee and VIRTUS is being completed across the board for this committee.

4. **YOUTH GROUP**- Urban Battlefield was a success! We had 39 participants (max is 40) and from adults to kids they were out of breath, red faced, and smiles from ear to ear. It was a good time. We continue to take in payments as we prepare to pay the invoice so numbers are not final, but we should recoup roughly \$400 of the total costs (approx. \$1,000).
5. **RCIA**- This last weekend we had the Rite of Election at the Parish followed by the Rite of Acceptance at the Cathedral. I was able to attend the Rites and Prince of Peace continues to produce very high numbers of converts and reverts to the Faith. I believe this is the greatest indicator of our success as a parish. We attract others without sacrificing our authenticity.
6. **EAST SIDE PLANNING GROUP** – The Group meets on 2/20/24. We are working on a mission trip, best practices, and POP is also advising some of the other parishes because we have the most well developed and stable RE and Youth Programs in our East Side parishes.
7. **UPCOMING DATES- PURPOSE/10th** – Feb 25th, March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th (final class)
8. **UPCOMING DATES- YOUTH GROUP**- March (not planned), April (Bowling-Date TBD)
9. **NEEDS/DESIRES** - More volunteers. I'd like a total of 4 Youth Group (we have 3), 4 YG Planning (we have 1), and 6 Young Adult Planning (we have 3), and 3 Young Adult (we have 3). Thus far, I've not had much luck in securing volunteers outside of personal invitation and occasional, one time, volunteers. I suggest a more comprehensive marketing strategy with brand awareness and better defined duties for the Core Team. If the Steering Committee wishes to continue (short term) I would like that to be the focus of the meetings. Promotion.

Neil Saindon

Dir. Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Prince of Peace Catholic Community