

St. Catharine of Siena Church
4975 Boyertown Pike
Reading, PA 19606

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Attendance: Fr. Brian Miller, Father JV, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul R. Bassler, Lisa Ianni, Karen McDevitt, Merrick Plaisance, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deacon John Stapleton, Deanna Stratton, Cynthia Waldman, Tim Waldman, and Michael Wertz

Absent: Marci Zambito - DRE Ex-officio member

Opening Prayer: Fr. JV

Old Business:

- **Welcome New Members:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mike Wertz welcomed Merrick Plaisance, Cynthia Waldman and Tim Waldman as new parish Council members.
- **Parish Survey - Catholic Leadership:** Father Miller announced that St. Catharine's was chosen to be one of the Parishes with in person support over the next three years. He is forming a committee to work on this project. We received 263 completed surveys. More information will be shared with the Parish in the coming months and another Parish survey will be done for comparison at the end of the project to see what areas improved.

Committee Updates:

- **Communications:** Father Miller is working with an Eagle Scout to create digital message boards for the Church and with another Eagle Scout to create signage outside the Church.
- **Facilities:** Mike Balla reported that:
 - Line painting to designate the no parking zones in front of the Church will be scheduled.
 - Repairing the brick joints at St. Mary's is scheduled for August.
 - An outdoor lighting assessment was done at the Church and will be reviewed to decide what improvements should be made.
 - Repairs to the convent boiler and roof are being coordinated.
 - There was discussion about the heating and AC units above the Church being approximately 30 years old and needing replacement.

- There was discussion about fixing the ceiling area above the altar where a water leak has caused damage.
- **Faith/Spiritual:** Deanna Stratton reported that:
 - The next Donut Sunday will be sponsored by the Guitar Choir on August 25th.
 - The 2nd New Parishioner Brunch is being held in the Social Hall on July 28th.
 - An Altar Server Kickball game and Family Movie Night is being held August 24th. It will include the kickball game with teams coached by Father Miller and Father JV, hotdogs, ice cream, popcorn, beverages, and an outdoor showing of the movie “The Prince of Egypt” open to all parishioners and their families. The movie will be moved into the Social Hall if the weather is bad.
 - A Chili Cook-off is being planned for October 26th.
 - The committee is working with Deacon Stapleton to get volunteers to be Ministers of Hospitality so that ministry can become active again.
 - The Committee discussed possibly scheduling a Fire Prevention Month event in October and opportunities to encourage 8th graders to maintain their connection with the Church and the other students following Confirmation.
- **Fundraising:** Father Miller noted that the Knights of Columbus will be having a “Knight at the Races” fundraiser on September 28th.
- **New Business:**
 - Mike Balla presented a landscaping proposal for review. This will include trimming trees and bushes and plantings to spruce up the exterior of the Church for our 100th Anniversary in 2025.
 - Father Miller mentioned that during the RCIA program this year he plans to have the usual smaller sessions with the candidates followed by them all going into the Church where he’ll invite the entire Parish to come to hear the various topics along with the candidates. Announcements explaining this opportunity and the weekly topics will be posted in the Bulletin and on Tabella.

Blessing: Father Miller gave a blessing to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa A. Siciliano
 Secretary