

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2024

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

Absent: Father JV

Opening Prayer: Father Miller

Old Business:

- **Review the Success of Recent Events:** Council discussed the success of recent Parish events including the Rosary before the October Masses; Chili Cookoff; October Social Sundays; Millions of Monica's program; and the First Eucharistic Congress that was held at HGA.
- **Advent Reflection:** Advent Reflection opportunities are scheduled for Saturday, December 7th. The men will be meeting from 9:00-11:00 AM and the women will be meeting that evening from 5:30-8:00 PM. In addition to sharing a meal, there will be a guest speaker as well as time for adoration and confession. Notices were put in the Bulletin, on the digital message boards and on the tables in the Narthex.
- **Parish Survey - Catholic Leadership:** Father Miller announced that the committee will be meeting November 23rd.
- **100th Anniversary:** Father Miller and the 100th Anniversary Committee continue to meet to plan special ways to celebrate St. Catharine's all throughout 2025 as our Parish observes its 100th Anniversary. In addition to Masses celebrated by Bishop Schlert and visiting Priests, ideas include a Parish retreat; family night; food truck night; outreach to the poor; trip to Italy in October; special newsletter; St. Catharine's trivia; St. Catharine's items to purchase; and a new picture directory including photos from the special events in 2025.

Committee Updates:

- **Communications:** Father Miller announced that the two large digital message boards are operational in the Church. Anyone having announcements to post should send them in 16x9 landscape jpeg format to Diane at the Parish Office and to Father Miller.

Father Miller is working to create a job description and budgeting to try to hire a part-time or full-time communications director to assist the Parish.

- **Facilities:** Mike Balla reported that the Convent repairs and St. Mary's brick joint repair were done. Following an assessment of the outdoor landscaping and lighting at the Church, the suggested improvements are being tabled pending available funding. The eight heating and AC units above the Church are in the process of being replaced.
- **Faith/Spiritual:** Deanna Stratton reported that the committee has been very busy. During Advent, there will be extra Masses at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The November Question and Answer with Father Miller was well attended and is posted on Father Miller's YouTube channel. Another session may be scheduled. Reconciliation room dividers that possibly have a slide window are being created. A Meal Train Ministry is being developed to assist Parishioners in need. For the second year, a Christmas book with an insert detailing upcoming Parish events is planned to be gifted to Parishioners. The next New Parishioner Brunch in the Social Hall is planned for January 5, 2025 after the 11:30 AM Mass.
- **Fundraising:** Father Miller mentioned that the 100th Anniversary Committee will be announcing items available to purchase in 2025. The Church has plans to get a dedicated phone line to receive electronic payments and registrations.
- **New Business:** A Lenten Retreat is being planned at the Mariawald Retreat House in Shillington for April 4th-6th. The Script program which supports tuition at St. Catharine's was discussed, including ways to promote and modernize it. The Parish Council By-Laws are being reviewed to see if changes should be recommended.

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa A. Siciliano
Secretary