

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 11/17/25 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Council Members Present: Fr. Fred, Dan, Joe, Barry, Lynne, Lisa, Deb, Wendy, Leigh Anne, Bob-President

Absent: Fr. Ryan

Minutes: Leslie

Opening Prayer: Fr. Fred led the meeting with a prayer followed with reflection among the members.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The minutes from October 20, 2025 will be read at the next council meeting.

Review of the Planning Calendar for 2025:

- Fr. Fred and council members shared their positive experiences attending the Parish Harvest Festival.
- Fr. Fred noted some events scheduled for the Fall, Advent and Christmas seasons.
The Hallow Advent Challenge will be introduced during Advent.

Parish Council Membership Update:

- Council members welcomed Joseph Mitchell who attended his first meeting.
- At this time, it was decided to hold onto the two applicants who responded to the invitation to join the parish council while continuing to offer the opportunity for other parishioners to join. The request will be in the bulletin.

Evangelization/Discipleship:

- Hallow prayer challenges will start with Advent and be offered at Christmas, Easter, Summer and Fall.
- St Bernard's will offer parishioners opportunity to support the Maria Africa Foundation with Fr. Simon giving a presentation at Masses. A way to sponsor a student may be one way to provide support. The time frame for this endeavor is in the Spring.
- The book Beautiful Hope will be the Christmas gift for parishioners.
- Fr. Fred received a request from Fr. Kevin for our help to honor the teachers at St. Mathew's church and school in Phoenix during the Christmas season. We will provide the teachers with financial support for their Christmas lunch and gift cards. In the future, one way to build a closer relationship with them could be having volunteers assist children in developing their reading skills.

Finance Administration update:

- The rectory will get going within 30 days.
- The parish center and office will be painted.
- The Marian structure for shade near the parking lot is moving forward.

- The playground will have a Noah's Ark theme and astro turf replacing sand.
- Mission engagement weekend produced solid results. Parishioners are generous.
- Andre Kepes is our new Coordinator of Evangelization-Communications. He will be responsible for IT and Data Base. He has a background and skills in marketing, photography, communications and technology.
- Bob reported the project of security awareness is progressing.

Other Items:

- A bus will be available to transport parishioners using an upper parking lot for the Christmas Eve Mass.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Fred ended the meeting with a prayer.

Upcoming Council Meetings: next meeting dates: Dec. 15th, Jan. 19th, Feb. 16th

Submitted by: Leslie Arnison, recording secretary