

MINUTES OF THE HOLY REDEEMER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

October 7, 2024



Council members present: Dianne Connelly, Janet Holden, Liz McCarte (Council Secretary), Beth Norcross, Ron Weishaar (Council Chair), Linore Dudik, Amanda Constant and Father Sullivan. Janet Holden also joined the meeting. Council members absent: Deacon Art LaChance, Rita Shields.

- A. The meeting started at 5:30 PM. Father Sullivan led the group in an opening prayer.
- B. The Council voted unanimously and without discussion to accept the June 24, 2024 meeting minutes.
- C. Father Sullivan provided an update on key Parish activities:
 - Cheryl Duerr has resigned and a new music director is being hired. Hopefully the position will be filled in the next few weeks. Father and the Council are grateful for Cheryl’s hard work and inspirational musical program.
 - Good feedback has been received on the renovation. The parking lot reconfiguration is in progress with design work completed. An engineering review is needed.
 - The new greeter kiosks are in place.
 - Small groups are going well with over 70 parishioners participating. A new group is being formed at the Victorian, facilitated by Monica Wieting and Liz McCarte.
 - Ron suggested we continue the momentum from rededication activities by hosting a St Patrick’s Day dinner, which would also give us a chance to use the new kitchen. The suggestion was endorsed by the Council, with the suggestion that we hire a professional chef to prepare the meal.
- D. Ron led a discussion reviewing the summer survey results and conducting a full Parish survey
 - The summer survey was conducted at both churches and at all Masses the weekend of August 3 and 4. Ron handed out a summary of the 2024 results and a comparison to 2023. Participation was not high either year (about 34 responses) but overall, the results were, very favorable. Some favorable comments were also received. Ron will write a paragraph about the survey results for the bulletin. Below are the results from the summer surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024.

Question	2024 Survey Responded “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”	2023 Survey Responded “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”
The Worship service at Mass is uplifting and inspirational	84%	91 %
The music played during Mass enhances the worship experience	81%	65%
I felt welcomed at Church today	90%%	88%

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- Ron also commented that a nice increase in favorable results was observed when the first full Parish survey conducted in 2019 was compared to the full Parish survey conducted in 2023.
 - The Council discussed conducting another full Parish survey. The decision was made to conduct it in the Spring of 2025. The survey will be conducted electronically as well as in paper form. Ron will email the 2023 survey questions for review and discussion at the January 2025 Council meeting.
 - Father Sullivan thanked the Parish for a robust response to the annual appeal. The goal was exceeded by about 20%.
- E. Janet Holden discussed ideas on increasing volunteerism at Holy Redeemer. She has been participating in “Rebuilt” videos and workshops which provide insights on ways to grow and revitalize the Parish. She shared reflections on volunteerism. A key is to approach people one on one and extend a personal invitation to and encourage participation out of discipleship. Often Parishioners are receptive when directly approached by the Pastor. She also mentioned it is important to thank volunteers and keep in touch with them. The Hospitality Ministry is meeting October 10 to discuss what more we can be done. Father Sullivan commented that he and Deacon Art will be conducting a series of homilies on “recognizing your call.”
- F. Ron led a discussion on the Fall Ministry Fair. It will be held after the November 2nd and 3rd Masses. A list of current ministries was handed out and reviewed. The “Home Visit Eucharistic Ministry” was added and the Liberty Commons Ministry was renamed the “Long Term Care Support Ministry.” Father holds Mass at the Victorian and Liberty Commons once a month and could use help. Further discussion will occur around creating a Newcomers and Children’s Ministries.
- G. Linore raised two additional agenda items
- Soliciting congregation involvement to take the gifts to the altar. In the past the gifts were at the back of the church and carried by volunteers to the front altar with the collection. Father Sullivan said the start of the Liturgical year in November would be a good time to reinstate this practice.
 - Some feedback has been received on repeating the use of QR codes in the lector announcements. The practice will continue since we have a lot of seasonal visitors.
- H. Father Sullivan concluded the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz McCarte
Council Secretary