

St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2023

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Benz, Fr. Chris Holtmann, Carol Callahan, Zeonia Christy, Angie DeGooyer, Lori Geisman, Valerie Heien, Jan Joeckel, Carolyn Martin, Chrissy Poulter, Jim Streit, Mary Jane Young, Gwen Williams

Absent: Rick Bates, Deacon Mark McCarthy Fr. Mark Whitman

Prayer: Mary Jane Young opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: Meeting scheduled for June 20, 2023 was canceled. Minutes for May meeting were reviewed, and changes were made; 1st motion to accept the minutes with revisions by Jim Streit, 2nd by Lori Geisman. Motion passed. Minutes were approved with revisions.

Introductions: Council members welcomed Fr. Chris to his first St. Cletus Parish Council meeting. Each Council member introduced him/herself with a brief summary of involvement at the parish. Jim Streit provided a list of council members' contact information. Fr. Chris will be in residence at St. Cletus the first week of August.

Parish Council Formation: Council members split into small groups to review pages 17-24 in the "Preparing for Mission" evangelization workbook. The focus of this section is on creating *New Minds* for the church and for others. At the next meeting, we will finish the packet and determine next steps to use the information for evangelization.

Old Business

All Ministry Meeting: This item is tabled until Fr. Chris gets established and reviews our Strategic Plan.

Calls to Parishioners: Fr. Benz and Jan drafted a letter which was reviewed. With Fr. Benz retiring soon, it was decided that Fr. Benz and Fr. Chris would draft a joint transition letter addressing all parishioners. After the letter is sent, we can follow up with phone calls with a special emphasis on families who are not attending St. Cletus and to invite them to return.

Fr. Chris Welcome Weekend: Rick is organizing the Saturday August 5 evening reception after 5pm Mass. Sunday, August 6 after all Masses is donut Sunday and a time for all parishioners to meet Fr. Chris. Both events will be held in the parish hall which was fully repaired after the flooding. Chrissy and Mary Jane will work on a flyer to stuff in the bulletin.

New Business

Parish Council Nominations: Jim Streit and Rick Bates are working on nominations for new parish council members. 3 members have served their full 6-year allowable term and must step off. Because of the All Things New transition and the need for consistency during Fr. Chris' first year at St. Cletus, remaining council members were given the option to stay on the council for 1 additional year or to agree to their 2nd 3-year term. In January 2025, alternates will replace members who served the transitional year, and the alternate will serve out the 2-year balance of the term in 2025 & 2026 with the option of accepting a second 3-year term. Parish Council members should contact Jim to tell him their intentions to serve the next term.

Pastor's Time:

Youth Ministry: Bob Hamer has taken a full-time job as retreat coordinator at Chaminade High School but will continue for now as St. Cletus' youth minister. Fr. Chris has extensive experience with youth ministry since he headed a 5-parish youth group at his current parish and is very interested in creating a vibrant youth ministry at St. Cletus.

New Families Registering: We've seen a spike in new families joining St. Cletus. Fr. Benz puts their pictures in the bulletin. We have also noticed that once children leave our parish school that families tend to leave St. Cletus as well.

Suppers 8: There are 48 people who signed up for this session of Suppers 8 with 6 groups formed.

Strategic Plan: Fr. Chris will review our strategic plan. At a future meeting, the pillar chairs can report to him on goals that have been accomplished.

Adult Faith Formation: The 3rd season of "The Chosen" will be shown beginning July 19. The group is also working on several other adult formation events including "Celebrating with the Saints" which combines discussion of various saints while enjoying adult beverages. The next session of Women's Walking with Purpose Bible Study is planned for September with a study of Mary in the Bible.

Priest Send-off Celebrations: Both Fr. Mark's and Fr. Benz' parties were a success. A special thanks was extended to Lori Geisman and MaryJane Young who spearheaded the events as well as to all council members who were able to help. Fr. Benz was able to distribute much of his personal book collection to parishioners.

Closing Prayer: Carolyn Martin led the closing prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 15 at 7pm in the parish hall. Prayer will be led by Gwen Williams.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Callahan, 7/30/2023