

OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
12/16/24 6:30 pm
Parish Rectory

PPC members present:

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Marilyn Jansen	X	Mike Crowe	X	Brian Callahan	X
Bridget Baumstark	X	Cindy Rourke	X	Kevin Dougherty	X	Tom Huffman	X
Sara Carsten	X	Kevin Ryan	X	Tracey Zabriskie	X	Sandy McBreen	X
John Simons	X	Danielle Schuh	X	Laura Roche	X	Ben Parma	X

Fr. Patrick Kizza and Religious Education Director Erin Bretts also attended.

PPC Mission: OLPH is a family of believers in Christ who strive to live according to His teachings. We take as our mission in the world the living out of the Gospel of Jesus.

Opening Prayer

John Simons

Approval of Minutes

Our last meeting (November 2024) minutes were approved.

Religious Education - Family Catechesis (guest Erin Bretts, RE Director)

Erin Bretts was invited to provide an update on the Religious Education program overall and Family Catechesis in particular. Erin grew up in Glenview, attending both OLPH and public schools. She moved back from the city with her husband and three young children several years ago. After working part time with the RE program at her parish in the city she stepped in to help here at OL. Erin was elevated to Director in 2023 succeeding her predecessor, Angela Romero. In her time leading the program Erin has focused on keeping the post Covid renewed energy and momentum going. To this end she has expanded the Family Catechesis option, where parents attend together with their children for one longer session monthly vs the kids attending weekly by themselves. This part of the program has evolved out of the old Family Tree model used previously. This year Erin has included Confirmation aged kids (7th & 8th graders) for the first time with nearly 50 families opting into this program, the most we have had in years. Erin has incorporated outside speakers (for example from Maryville) and service projects into the Family curriculum with much positive feedback so will likely expand on those areas into the broader RE program. Our teaching seminarians have also been a great help. Fr Boland has expressed his pleasure in seeing the current momentum with the younger RE families and has been encouraging of the new ideas and angles. The overall RE program has almost 500 children

across all sessions enrolled this year. Erin expressed alignment with Fr. Boland's view of meeting people where they are. To this aim she is looking into partnering more with other ministries on future events. RE and Youth Group again participated with the Men's Club in last weekend's annual St. Sabina Children's Christmas Party. The Women's Club provides ample opportunities for new partnership events. Erin also made a point to thank Fr. Patrick Kizza for his support and all the many volunteers who teach the classes and those who help manage the logistics of the program in the RE office. Fr. Boland and all PPC members wholeheartedly thanked Erin for her energetic leadership and direction in her work with the children of the parish.

Ministry Liaison Update – Liturgy & Worship (John Simons & Cindy Rourke)

John & Cindy (mostly John, per Cindy's good natured admission) provided an overview of the Liturgy & Worship Ministry. John is a longstanding member. The ministry is chaired by Fr. Larry Basbas and generally meets at 4pm on the second Friday of the month. Margie Andre' is a permanent member and serves as secretary. The group helps plan and coordinate virtually all aspects of our masses and special events (designated Feast Days, Eucharistic Adoration, etc.). The touchpoints are many including lectors, greeters and ushers, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, coordinating the music with Russell Stern as well as decorating the church. John provided the minutes from their most recent meeting (December 13) illustrating the various functions of the group. For example a parishioner requested to bring an idea for an additional Adoration time to the PPC but the idea was steered to the Liturgy Ministry. At their meeting the idea was discussed and embraced with some recommendations made for implementation and the best timing. The group also discussed scheduling changes for Adoration and Holy Hours during the holiday weeks of Christmas and New Years and mapped out a detailed schedule for decorating the Church and Playdium for Christmas.

Ministry Appreciation Mass

Kevin Dougherty provided an update on planning for the Ministry Appreciation Mass scheduled for February 8th. The Sign Up Genius is out and PPC members have stepped up to fill the various roles and assignments. The evening is an annual opportunity to say thank you to those who work in our many ministries at OLPH. The Mass will be at 5:00 PM with the reception immediately following in the Playdium. Kevin hosted the first Zoom call on 12/11 for an overview and to go over details and timeline. After the New Year things will move very quickly so please be aware before the date sneaks up on us. The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for 1/22. We can touch base on any issues that may have cropped up 1/13 at the January PPC meeting.

No New Business Was Introduced

Pastor's Update (Fr. Boland)

Christmas Season/2025 Momentum

Fr. Boland began by saying this Christmas dinner & meeting is his favorite of the year. He gave a special thank you to Laura for her efforts in organizing and planning such a wonderful evening.

This year he is particularly struck by the energy and vibrancy of the parish. Advent is in full swing and liturgies have been outstanding. The pews have seemed more full. The Christmas party 12/6 at North Shore Country Club sold out in 90 minutes and was full of young parishioners. The St. Sabina Children's Party had more kids volunteering than we have seen in years. He is so inspired and encouraged by the passion for Adult Spirituality – scripture study this fall was outstanding and promises the same for the winter session. The Men's Spirituality Group just had their best attended fall season ever and are planning a big event in March. The Women's Club is adding Guilds and has a new group of vibrant leaders, attendance has been great at their many events. The Men's Club leaders have turned over and are part of the next generation. There is so much to appreciate and be thankful for here at OLPH. We need to seize the momentum and carry it forward in 2025. Lent and Easter will be huge opportunities to cultivate our adult formation efforts. We have the chance to reimagine the future and we should see this as a great opportunity.

McDonnell Hall

At long, long (long) last the contract is being finalized by the Archdiocese and the overhaul project will begin just after the New Year. Originally, we had hoped this would all be complete and in the rear view mirror by now but we are finally starting. Fingers crossed. The last 9:30 mass will be 1/5 if current plans hold and we hope construction will finish up by June. Families will have to migrate to 9am or 10:30am mass in the main church. This will be an adjustment for all but we will muddle through. It is a great investment for the future of the parish.

Capital Campaign

The Generation to Generation campaign has kicked off with a pilot program of 15 parishes and seems to be going well. A lot more will be able to be shared at the January meeting when we have the initial results from this group. For now Fr. Boland is in the early stages of forming a campaign committee here at OL with a goal of \$5.5m. After the New Year they will formulate a plan for pledging and deciding on projects. Early ideas include a dedicated hospitality room, elevators for Playdium & Lexington, improved air conditioning systems or further security investments. One potential idea is a Sister Paulanne Legacy Fund that would include donations to our sharing parishes.

Temp Bishop Boland

Bishop Grob is in Milwaukee as the new Archbishop and Fr. Boland's stint as interim vicar has begun. So far so good but he can't wait for it to be over. He expressed his sincere hope a new bishop will be named by February.

Fr. Boland closed by again voicing optimism for 2025. The excitement of Christmas is building. College kids are trickling back into town and it is always fun to have them home. He also wanted to remember Rita Jaeger, a beloved longtime parishioner who recently passed at 101.

Closing Prayer

Marilyn Jansen