



ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
January 11, 2012

Present:	C. Ayoub S. Eckrich R. Mantilia R. Phelan Msgr. Scheyd	M. Barnard S. Goetz T. Marino M. Pierce S. Staudt	Fr. Carey Dr. Howard J. Otis Deacon Pond	K. Doran L. Karl R. Petronella Deacon Santulli
Absent:	J. Buongiorno C. Hussey B. Redman	M.B. Fessler Fr. Jeremiah	P. Greene E. Millette	J. Holec M. Pascale

I Opening Prayer: 7:38 pm

- Fr. Carey led the Council in prayer to open the meeting. Special prayers were offered for the soul of Dr. Howard's brother.

II Approval of October Minutes, Parish Reports, Agenda:

- The **November Minutes** were approved as written.
- The **Parish Council Reports** were approved as part of the minutes noting the correct date at the heading should read "January 2012".
- The **Agenda** was approved with additions as discussed below.

III Business Manager's Report:

- Rich Phelan provided a brief overview. He will be reviewing the detailed financial performance for the fourth quarter in February with the Parish Finance Committee. After that presentation he will provide details to the Parish Council.
- In summary, contributions during the Christmas Season were good. The offertory was behind due to Sunday and Christmas being on the same day. There were some additional, generous contributions outside of the Sunday collection which helped maintain the revenue goals.
- **Projects:**
 - ✓ The school air conditioning project is moving forward.
 - ✓ The church roof is leaking and needs repair/replacement. Studies are underway.

IV Update from Clergy and Staff:

➤ **Fr. Carey:**

- ✓ Adult Bible study will resume tomorrow morning, January 12th.
- ✓ He pointed out the very positive result of having confession for CCD & school students during Advent and Lent.
- ✓ An outgrowth of the Saturday Morning Men's Fellowship and Bible Study is interest in putting together a proposal for younger, married men where a devotion to St. Joseph would help them to be better husbands and fathers. A group will help develop a proposal for Msgr. Scheyd's review.

➤ **Fr. Ian: excused, on retreat:**

- ✓ Monday, January 23rd will be the "March for Life" trip to Washington. 30 people have signed up with capacity for 53. The scarves sold out and a number of generous donations will help with the expenses plus fund other parish Pro-Life activities.

➤ **Dr Howard:**

- ✓ The school continues to be in very good shape.
- ✓ There will be an upcoming open house.
- ✓ Dr. Dames conducts Wednesday Walkthroughs in various diocesan schools. She visited St. Aloysius on December 7th and extended her visit to most of the day.
- ✓ The Kiwanis Club had a successful Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 3rd. They donated \$1,000 to the school.
- ✓ Kiwanis will be requesting to hold an event on March 17th.

(a little editorial license – If Dr. Howard keeps this up he may be able to turn the school into a part time for profit catering hall – Now back to the minutes).

V Unfinished Business

- Bob Mantilia attended the founding meeting of CONECT (Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut) and briefed the Council on the organization's political priorities and funding sources.

VI New Business:

- **Virtus Training:** There was some discussion on the need and priority for all volunteers who come in contact with youth or may come in contact with youth from time-to-time, to get certified. All agree on the need to be trained. There was some discussion on the timing of training in order to support upcoming Parish events.
- **Parking:** John Otis raised the issue regarding handicapped parking – do we have enough? We are in conformance with laws but may be light on having enough spaces to assist all who need a shorter walk. John volunteered to research and follow up.

- **Vocation Awareness:** Deacon Bill Santulli updated the Council on his efforts. Fr. Bob Kinnally, director of vocations, for the Diocese will visit St. Aloysius twice.
 - ✓ On February 20th he will meet with the Emmaus Preparation Committee to show appreciation for the generosity in helping with special gift cards for seminarian use during exam study breaks.
 - ✓ Also on March 10th and 11th he will be at all masses to speak on vocations. He will also meet with anyone interested in discussing opportunities.
 - ✓ Msgr. Scheyd suggested a religious woman or deacon in training as potential speakers.
 - ✓ Fr. Carey asked us to consider a vocations fair, similar to the one held at Trinity Catholic.

VII Pastor's Report:

- The Christmas Concert was outstanding and well attended.
- Christmas music throughout Advent and Christmas was outstanding and greatly appreciated adding to our liturgy.
- The Christmas Gift Box enjoyed very generous support and Msgr. was able to lighten the burden for a number of families throughout our community of faith.
- The Christmas financial support was very good. A number of parishioners financially supported the Parish outside of the collection which was impacted by Christmas and Sunday being on the same day.
- We need to do a little work to improve the ushering and collecting and will work on that.
- This year will mark the 50th anniversary of Vatican II. Pope Benedict the XVI has declared October 11, 2012 through November 24, 2013 as the **"Year of Faith"**. Msgr. Scheyd would like to develop and sponsor monthly gatherings or other events and activities to invite "non-regulars" to begin a more active participation in the Parish. More to come on this.
- March 10th will be the annual "Friends Gala" at Woodway. This year Friends is honoring Ann Kelly.

VIII Input and Comments:

- None

IX Closing Prayer: 9:08 pm

- Msgr. Scheyd led us in the closing prayer to end the evening and go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Next meeting is scheduled Monday, February 13th at 7:30 pm in Stapleton Hall.

PLEASE NOTE WE MAY RESCHEDULE OR CANCEL THE MEETING DUE TO SCHOOL VACATION

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Mantilia, Secretary

St Aloysius Church Parish Council

January 2012 Meeting

Committee Reports

✓ **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Report will be verbal. Awaiting Finance Committee presentation before providing to Parish Council.

✓ **CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS:**

November 3rd was our Bingo night and food drive.

During the month of November, our Court presented a Thanksgiving basket to the Youth Ministry.

On November 13, we attended the Deceased Members Mass with the Knights of Columbus -- lunch was served at Stapleton Hall.

Our annual S.T.A.R. Christmas party took place on December 15th. We had approximately 30 guests.

This year our members prepared a pasta dinner with all the trimmings and an array of desserts. A special thank you to Chris Otis and Msgr. Scheyd for their help and especially the 3 Elfs who came to assist Santa!

Our next meeting will be on February 2nd.

✓ **CLERGY REPORTS :**

Fr. Bill – No Report

Fr. Ian – No Report

Msgr. Scheyd – No Report

✓ **EMMAUS :**

The winter/spring Emmaus weekend retreat for sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school will be held at All Saints School on March 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The retreat will be led by Colleen & Tom Baldwin who will be assisted by Mary Karen & Bill Keneally.

All high school students who have attended an Emmaus retreat, as well as their parents and other interested adults, are eligible to work on the team.

The team meetings will begin on Sunday, January 22nd, at 2:15 PM in Stapleton Hall. Contact Colleen or Tom, staloysemmaus@gmail.com, to work on the team. Applications to be a Candidate are available in the racks at Church or at starcc.com.

✓ **GRADE CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM:**

Our Level II students held their first class community service project, The Living Nativity on Friday, December 2 in the crèche on the corner of South and Cherry streets. Over 50 Confirmation candidates did a wonderful job bringing the story of the birth of Jesus to life with costumes, live animals and a Nativity Choir led by Thom Marino. The Knights helped by handing out nativity ornaments to the crowds that gathered for the 5 showings. We received fabulous press this year as we were featured on Channel 12 news that Friday night and made the front cover of the Fairfield County Catholic.

(<http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/index.php/fcc/archive-fcc> to check out the December 2011 edition) A great evangelization effort that will continue at St. A's!

All of our Level I and Level II students came to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in December. While there, they also wrote Christmas cards to our priests and deacons.

Father Ian and the two deacons continue to visit all Level II classes to talk about the Sacraments.

Father Bob Kinnally, Director of Vocations for the diocese will come to speak to our Level II candidates at the end of this month with a talk entitled, Bringing God into Your Decision Making. He will bring a few seminarians as well. He touches on vocations and illustrates to our young people how to call upon God when making all decisions, be they little or large.

We have almost collected all sponsor forms. A mailing will be sent to sponsors this year with a brochure on how to be an effective Confirmation sponsor. The students are working on their saint reports.

Our students continue their community service. Highlights from the past month include the making of and delivery of 24 gingerbread houses for our parish homebound, assisting at the Christmas Eve Pageant Mass, working at the soup kitchen the day after Christmas and hosting of Christmas Bingo for Seniors, which about 25 seniors attended. Our 1,000 stockings were distributed in Kentucky to many happy children! On a side note, the New Canaan Daily News covered the gingerbread house delivery – check it out! Here is the link - <http://www.thedailynewcanaan.com/neighbors/st-aloysius-seniors-get-sweet-treat>

✓ **THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

The knights enjoyed a busy November and December; the main focus was our Keep Christ in Christmas campaign. This began with the setting up of the brand new crèche that the Knights paid for as well as built along with some Boy Scouts.

We handed out Christmas buttons early in December.

The Council also sponsored a poster contest for the school children of St A's...many are hanging in the Church.

This along with some donations (like for Christmas Trees for the Sisters of Life) lead up to our annual Christmas cocktail party when Knights brought their wives. We had the biggest turnout ever, over 100 attended.

After a well needed Christmas break the Knights are back meeting and planning out the rest of the 2011-2012 year.

In January in addition to our regular meetings and welcoming all the new members we have, the Council will be taking down the crèche on January 14th.

We will begin planning for our charitable giving as well as the college scholarship awarded in May/June.

The council is planning on hosting the KofC Free Throw contest again this year. Last year was the first time #2287 participated and we had the most participants in the state! The plan is to hold it on Jan 22nd at 1pm (we were planning on using the St. A's gym, however there is talk about moving to a neutral location). We are also trying to plan a Past Grand Knights dinner in February as well as a Men of the Parish social on February 16th

✓ **MARTHA & MARY MINISTRIES:**

Martha & Mary are planning the St. A's First Annual Family Lenten Sunday Soup Supper, scheduled for Sunday, February 26 in the school gym. All ideas and help most welcomed!

✓ **MUSIC AND LITURGY:**

No Report

✓ **OUR LADIES GUILD:**

Our Lady's Guild Met on **Nov. 15, 2011**

Fr. Ian celebrated Mass and said the Rosary.

The reading of the minutes from our last meeting was waived.

Susan mentioned that our next meeting would be our Advent morning of recollection with Fr. Ian and we would have our Christmas brunch. She reminded us that we would be collecting Christmas gifts (not mandatory) for residents of St. Camillus Nursing Home.

Leigh Barnard was not in attendance but had Susan remind everyone that December 3rd was the First Friday and there was going to be Adoration.

Betty Flynn stated there were still three volunteers needed for serving lunch at Lapham in January.

Sue Scutt mentioned that if there was anyone in the parish that would like to have a visitor they should contact Linda Weber from the Friendly Visitors.

Margie Doran asked members to come and pray the Rosary for Life after the 9am Mass on Fridays in. On **December 9, 2011**, Our Lady's Guild had their Christmas Brunch and Advent Morning of Recollection in Stapleton Hall. Father Ian Jeremiah gave the Recollection, followed by Confessions. Members of Our Lady's Guild brought Christmas gifts to the meeting that they had purchased for the residents of St. Camillus Nursing Home in Stamford. Greg Sacco, the Director of Recreation at St. Camillus, came to the meeting to pick up the gifts and expressed his appreciation for the donations. Susan Staudt reminded the group about the next Eucharistic Adoration on January 6. Betty Flynn updated members on the four dates in January on which Our Lady's Guild had volunteered to serve lunch to seniors at Lapham Community Center. The next meeting will be a Book Discussion led by Father Ian Jeremiah in Stapleton Hall on January 20, 2012.

✓ **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

All of our children in grades 3-6 celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. Our second graders gathered to sing Christmas carols with Deacon Steve on the last day before the Christmas break.

In addition our 2nd graders and their families attended the Enrollment Ceremony on Saturday January 7. They were given blessed crosses and their parents were given books to help prepare their children for First Holy Communion. The children promised to get to know and love Jesus in the Eucharist by signing their name to this promise and placing it in a book that will be brought up to the altar on First Communion Day.

We are in the process of checking our attendance records. Religious Education is at the half way point. Our 1st, 3rd and 5th graders will be going on a church tour during the month of January. I will not be able to attend the Parish Council meeting this month but plan to do so next month.

✓ **SCHOOL REPORT:**

No Report

✓ **USHERS :**

Respectfully submitted from Denver:

Christmas collections were coordinated for all masses prior to those masses. Overall collections went smoothly. However, there were still problems at the 5pm Christmas Eve mass with a part of a section missed (even though an usher had been assigned) and midnight mass where nobody showed up causing Rich Phelan to scramble to coordinate.

I believe it's time to formalize the Usher process. Ushers should be assigned to specific masses per a schedule and they should be trained as the function is more than just handling collections. The concept of formalizing this process has met with resistance in the past so as not to offend some of the old guard who have been doing collections for years. We need a published schedule similar to the altar servers and lector schedules, and we need the ushers to do more than just collect. I have reached out to Rich Phelan to start this process.