

**St. Anthony of Padua Parish**  
*Parish Council Meeting Minutes*  
November 25, 2014

In Attendance: Fr. Gerry Mahoney, OSFS, Fr. Nick Waseline, OSFS, Br. Mike Rosenello, Anthony Albence, Paul Ceresini, Anthony Frabizzio, Dave Haney, Patty Roach, Maria Panella, Louis Perazza, John Potts, Elaine Serpe, Bob Shields

Excused: Jim DelGrosso, Carol Ann Dougherty, Lynn Kee

- Opening Prayer
  - Fr. Nick led the group in the Opening Prayer, which included a reflection on the Parish Mission Statement, and the words of Pope St. John XXIII.
- Meeting Minutes
  - Anthony F. Moved and John seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- High School Representatives Report
  - None present
- Discussion Items
  - Parish Planning Commission
    - Fr. Nick offered insights on the latest updates on the Parish Planning Commission. The core group reconvened on Sunday, 11/16, for a meeting facilitated by professional church leadership facilitator Michael Castrilli. Fr. Nick distributed a schema document summarizing the planning priorities devised as a result of discussion of the recent meeting
    - The full Commission will be updated via a memo, and will then be invited to reconvene in January, and this information will be presented to them. The members of the committee will be asked to break down into four cohorts (i.e., subcommittees) aligned with the identified planning priorities. These cohorts may decide to further subdivide, as needed, to address specific needs/programs/priorities.
    - Each cohort will be invited to identify leadership from among its own membership.
  - Advent Season
    - The bulletin will feature info on the liturgical details to be observed to mark the Advent season.
    - An Advent Vespers (Evensong) service will be held on Sunday evening, 12/7, at 7:00PM.
  - Sodality Gift
    - The sodality will donate funds to purchase an ambry (repository of sacred oils), which will be mounted by the baptistery.
  - St. Anthony in the Hills Appraisal
    - An appraisal of the property has been requested by the Finance Council, and will be conducted (hopefully) in December.
  - Parish Legal Counsel
    - An effort is underway to assemble a team of attorneys (ideally pro-bono) to offer legal counsel on the parish on an as-needed basis. Anyone who knows of any attorneys who may be interested in assisting is asked to forward names to Fr. Nick or Anthony Frabizzio.

- Thank You To Home & School Board
  - Fr. thanked the Home & School Association for all the work undertaken to benefit the school and students/families.
- Holy Name Society (HNS)
  - Fr. will be on-site next week to moderate the upcoming elections. Fr. also thanked the HNS for all their work for the parish as well.
- First Penance
  - Fr. reported all went well, and thanked the clergy and Patty Roach for their work on this.
- Funeral for Fr. Engelhardt
  - Fr. thanked the parish community for support during the funeral for Fr. Engelhardt.
- Knights of Columbus
  - Fr. thanked the Knights for their ongoing support. He invited everyone to attend the coffee & donut social that the Knights will sponsor following the Thanksgiving Day Mass (which will be celebrated at 9:30AM on Thanksgiving Day).
- Grade School Report
  - Bob Shields provided a written report for members, & highlighted some content on the report.
  - Open House will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Bob highlighted some recent media coverage of the school (e.g., NBC10, Delaware Today, and Italian-American radio program on 1450AM)
- Music Ministry Report
  - Louis provided an update on the status of the music ministry program and what he has undertaken since arriving.
  - Louis welcomed new members are always welcome for the Gallery Choir (Adult Choir).
- Committee Updates (Not Covered By Fr. Nick's Update)
  - Parish and Family Life
    - The next monthly social will be held on Epiphany Sunday, 1/4/2015, after the 11:00AM Mass & Epiphany Pageant.
    - The committee will test offering socials after the 9AM & 11AM Masses in February & March, and gauge the attendance. Announcements for socials will be made at the opening of Mass by the cantor.
  - Italian Festival
    - Festival gift cards will be available for sale (discounted) during the holiday season at Masses and at the Grade School. Cards will also be available for sale at the rectory.
- Old Business
  - None
- New Business
  - None
- Announcements/Pastor's Comments
  - Confirmation retreat was very successful, and the Confirmation will take place on December 13, 2014, followed by a social in the Ballad Room, sponsored by the Sodality.
  - The Delaware Italian American Education Association will be sponsoring an Italian film series to support the La Mia Piazza Italian summer language camp for children. The series will be held at the Sharp Center on the Delcastle School campus. Three films will be shown, one per month, January-March.
- Closing Prayer
  - Fr. Mahoney offered the Closing Prayer

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 1/27/2015**

**Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality**  
**Notes for Parish Council Meeting**

During the summer, Debbie worked with Fr. Nick in updating our prayers to be more fluent with current vocabulary. These prayers were recited at the September 21<sup>st</sup> Mass. Fr. Nick briefly spoke on what the new prayers mean and plans on returning for further explanations. These updates were voted upon and approved and Debbie will retype them and assemble them in booklets.

A new statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was donated to the Sodality which was used during the Festival Processions of the Saints. Prayer cards were also donated and were passed out to those watching the procession and donations of \$201 were given to St. Anthony's parish.

There was a low turnout of walkers for the procession. Nancy Poppiti suggested that shirts, banner sashes, carnations, boutonnieres, or our medals, be purchased for next year to identify the Sodality. Debbie will look into getting an open vehicle for those who cannot complete the walk.

The Sodality planned a bus trip in October and 55 people attended the show and dinner in Lancaster.

Patty Roach asked the Sodality to provide punch and cookies for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who made their Confirmation on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Previously the 7<sup>th</sup> graders provided this service, but are no longer interested in doing so. Patty would like to continue this courtesy.

Changes to the by-laws were suggested, i.e. dues increased to \$5 for 2015; Recording Secretary will take over the Master List; changes in day and time of monthly meetings; and removal of the May covered dish supper.

A bake sale was scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The autumn bake sale was a huge success. We netted \$680 in donations and \$821 in baked goods for a grand total of \$1,501.

Sodalists who have passed away during 2014 have been remembered during the Mass of Remembrance. They were Mary Fortunato, Nancy Fuski, Josephine Meriggi, Marie Petrucci, Joan Piantoni; and Ann Vietri.

The annual Mother/Daughter Communion Breakfast was held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. following the 9:00 a.m. Sodality Mass. Bette Isacoff, a noted author, was the guest speaker and related her story of how she was married here at St. Anthony by Fr. Balducelli when no one else would marry her to her Jewish husband.

December 15<sup>th</sup> the Sodality held its Christmas dinner at Café Napoli on Kirkwood Highway. This was the final activity for 2014.

December 31, 2014

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM  
MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2015

Ann Lohinetz reported a balance of \$3,727.04 in the bank account as of 1/18/15

Arlene Barbizzi gave totals from the October bake sale. We made \$1,536 in sales. \$715 came in as donations and \$821 in baked goods. More donations are still being received and a final total will be given at the next meeting.

We have installed 9 new members.

Poinsettias were contributed for the altar at Christmas.

The Christmas dinner was held at Café Napoli on December 15, 2014 and was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the evening.

The Mother/Daughter Communion Breakfast was held on Sunday, December 7. The Sodality offered to donate \$1000 to Fr. Nick. He was asked if there was anything special he would like to have and he said he would like to purchase an Ambry for the Holy Oils to be placed by the Baptistry. This was done and three priests each received \$50 from the remainder of the balance from the cost of the Ambry.

There was some discussion about possibly hiring a bus to go to Philadelphia when Pope Francis comes later this year. Also, Debbie will look into making arrangements to visit the exhibit "Who Is Mary" in Washington, DC.

January 26, 2015



**Parish Council Grade School Report – November 25, 2014- Respectfully submitted by Judy White**

**Beatitude Leadership Award**

During October, the children learned about being poor in spirit. We focused on the Beatitude, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” We talked about leaving room in our hearts that only Jesus could fill with His love. The following students were role models for their classmates last month, demonstrating their love of God and their neighbor. Congratulations to the following children: Neela Pulliam, Londyn Harris, ChumaChukwuocha, Kendall Reilly, Richie Jakotowicz, Liliana Ball, Amanda DeFrehn, Madison Rieger, Katie Collier, Caroline Achenbach, and Mackenzie McCall.



**Beatitudes : “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”** As we continue to talk about the Beatitudes, I hope you have a chance to stop by our school and see our decorations and projects centered on these themes. I thank my teachers for their creativity in sharing the Beatitudes in a meaningful way with our children. This week I noticed that the Kindergarten classroom door is decorated with little signs reminding us to simply “comfort others.”

**Barnes & Noble and California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser:**

Our annual Barnes & Noble holiday book fair is fast approaching! It will take place on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have a couple of exciting changes this year. The book fair will be held at the Barnes & Noble at **Christiana Mall**, and we will also be holding a fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen. The event at California Pizza Kitchen lasts all day and is good for dining in at the restaurant or take-out. Flyers have been sent home. Make sure to check your child’s white envelope for all the details. The event at Barnes and Noble is also all day. Teachers and staff will be at the store from 4:00-7:00pm to greet everyone and wrap any Christmas presents you might purchase. Our Antonians will be singing at 6:00pm in the children’s section of the store. Please note that **online orders** can be placed from December 2nd through December 7th. Our school has a special code located at the bottom of the flyer. Thank you for your support! Our school will receive a portion of the proceeds from both Barnes & Noble and California

Pizza Kitchen. Come out and enjoy a delicious meal, buy some books and support our school. We hope to see you there!

**A note from our school nurse, Mrs. Johnson:**

I often tell you about the excellent behavior of our students. I thought I would share a compliment that Mrs. Johnson shared with me. "I just have to tell you what an amazing class 2nd grade is. I did their vision and hearing yesterday. In all of my years as a school nurse doing the screening, I have never had a class that was as great to work with and well behaved as this class. All of them listened, followed directions, and did a great job on their screening. Even the children that were waiting to be screened sat quietly on the bench outside my office and read magazines. 100% of them were amazing!!! Just thought you should know."

**Student Council Update:**

I met with Student Council officers today, and they had many new ideas for the school. I promised not to spoil their surprises before Thanksgiving, so I will let them share news as it comes along. They have fun activities for every month for the remainder of the year. They have fresh ideas, and I think the students will be thrilled. They were pleased that I approved every idea they had. Look forward to Student Council flyers coming home soon.

**Classroom Visits:**

There was a buzz in First grade, so I stopped in to observe. The children were reading with a partner about different types of homes in a community. They were proud to read out loud to me. This week I found 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the library checking out and returning books, and working on decorating cornucopias. In their free time, when not in preparation for First Penance, Second grade class was taking virtual foul shots on the SMART Board for a math lesson on double-digit addition. They were excited and cheering as if they were actually playing basketball. I ran into 5<sup>th</sup> Grade again in the computer lab. I was fascinated with Ms. Capuano's lesson for the students. They were working on Excel spreadsheets and saving information to their flash drives. We certainly did not know how to do that when I went to school here!

**Tests:**

Thank you to Mrs. Potts for letting me review the Kindergarten First Benchmark Test in Math, focusing on counting. Great job, Kindergarten! Thank you also to Ms. McDonald for sharing 2<sup>nd</sup> grade's weekly Reading assessment and spelling tests. I loved the spelling bonus sentence, "I can't wait for a nice turkey dinner." I thoroughly enjoyed the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion assignment, "My Wisdom Book." The children wrote from the Book of Wisdom and translated the message in their own words. These translations were extremely impressive and showed the growth in their faith formation.

**First Penance took place on November 19th:** Leading up to that day, the Second Grade class had been practicing their prayers and reflecting on their sins. First Reconciliation was a beautiful night. Please pray for our Second Graders as they continue to prepare for First Eucharist in May.

**Thank you parents/friends for supporting Panera Night!** We earned \$236.00 for our patronage at Panera last month. The money earned will be used to purchase rewards and prizes for our token program. Children earn tokens for living the words of St. Francis de Sales, with our popular quote "Be who you are and be that well."



**Thanksgiving Food Drive ended on Friday:** I was once again impressed with the continued generosity of our school families. We filled almost half of the Ballad Room with food for the St. Patrick's Center and our parish food closet. I was amazed to see the children carrying in boxes and bags that weighed more than they do. I look forward to hearing from Felix Spitelli exactly how much food was collected.

**Advent is approaching:** Student Council is working on a theme for our school for this most special season. Rather than the adults choosing the theme for Advent, our Student Council has agreed to talk to students and decide on our theme. The initial thought they had was "Waiting for Jesus." They met yesterday and will give me their final decision. We will have our traditional Advent Wreath lighting in the main lobby each Monday morning. We will have our normal morning prayer and announcements, and then students will be called to the main lobby. This has always been a beautiful tradition that I look forward to every year. We switched last year from real candles to the safe plastic candles that can stay lit all day. The preschool class was fascinated, and everyone wanted to light the Advent Wreath candles. I cannot believe that when we return from Thanksgiving, Advent will be upon us. I hope the Advent season is a time of peaceful waiting for your families, rather than the fast-paced Christmas shopping madness that tends to rush us along. Time does fly. Don't let Advent fly by you this year. Join us for our weekly Masses on Friday at 8am.

**Delaware Children's Museum (DCM):** Our Third and Sixth Grade students were invited to the Delaware Children's Museum last Friday. It was a free field trip for us, other than the cost of the bus. This was a marketing opportunity for the DCM, and good marketing for us as well. Both NBC and Action News were there to showcase a new exhibit. Our children and the school name made it on the 5pm NBC news, and I believe you can visit the website to see it.

**Home and School Thanksgiving Luncheon:** Today was our annual Thanksgiving lunch, provided for free to all students and staff. The Home and School Board served a traditional Thanksgiving meal. This was a lovely gesture by our very generous Home and School Board. They volunteer so many hours, and I am extremely blessed to have their support for our school.

**Philadelphia Soul Presentation on November 19th:** A former graduate and Neumann University student, Michael DiOssi, came to St. Anthony's with a member representing the Philadelphia Soul. The two of them talked to students about healthy eating and healthy living. They motivated the students, in a pep rally style presentation, to pay attention to the foods they eat and the exercises they are able to do. They encouraged the students to track this information with their parents and mail the information to the team for free football tickets. There is the potential for a mascot visit and possibly even the entire team. This would require full school participation. We will launch this initiative after the holiday.

**Upcoming Events:**

November 25<sup>th</sup> – Home and School Turkey Luncheon

Home and School Dress Down Day (for children whose parents attended the November Meeting)

Parish Council Meeting – 7pm at the rectory

November 26<sup>th</sup> – 11:30am Thanksgiving Prayer Service

NOON DISMISSAL – NO AFTER CARE PROVIDED

November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – SCHOOL CLOSED. NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November 30<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Advent

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Advent Wreath lighting and prayer Service @ 8am

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Third Grade Field Trip to George Reed House 8:30am-11:30am

Barnes and Noble Night at the Christiana Mall – Antonians, Please wear your school uniform!

Pageant Practice in church for 4pm Christmas Eve Mass

December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pageant Practice in church for 7pm Christmas Eve Mass

December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Santa Secret Shop – Details and flyer to follow.

December 5<sup>th</sup> - 8am Mass. All are welcome!

December 6<sup>th</sup> – High School Placement Tests

## Scout Update, November 2014

### Boy Scouts

The Troop and Pack are going through the yearly rechartering process with the Boy Scouts of America, which involves turning in updated membership information to the DelMarVa Council of the BSA. They anticipate turning our paperwork in on or before December 6, 2014 (the due date for same).

They have received interest from several additional Cub Scouts from another pack who seek a new experience at Pack 88.

Troop 88 has gone camping in September (the Hills), October (White Clay Creek State Park) and November (Lum's Pond). All camping trips have proven successful for all involved.

Lou Vella has completed all necessary training to be a certified BSA Scoutmaster, and Thad Weaver has similarly completed the necessary training to a Troop and Pack Chairman. The District of which 88 is a part ("Powder Mill District") has aggressively pushed that all personnel undertake the necessary training for their volunteer positions as part of re-chartering.

As in the past, the Troop and Pack are prepared to assist in assembling the food baskets as part of the Advent activities for the Parish.

The Troop is expecting to attend the Klondike Derby activities at Camp Rodney in northern Maryland in January. Klondike is an outdoor skills competition among Troops. Troop 88 typically makes that Saturday into an open house for parents, and cub scouts, to see a Boy Scout activity.

### Girl Scouts

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual covered dish dinner was held on Monday (Nov. 24). New girls received their pins and current scouts received their stars for another year in scouting.

