



## CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

1 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme CT 06371  
www.christthekingchurch.net

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### Pastoral Council Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2021

**Present:** Fr. Joe, Kathy Burton, Bill Clinton, Ellen Cole, Larry Ghirardi, Lauren Girasoli, Ron Paine, Dorothy Paine (virtually), Mike Rafferty, Bill Thomas, Sharon Torrenti, Dick Torrenti, Jean Wilczynski (Finance Chair), David Wohlmuth, Louise Young, Erica Zapatka

**Others Present:** Al Page, John Smith

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reflection on 1 Corinthians 9:22
  - a. "To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings."
  - b. Be accessible to all people—meet them where they are, particularly with their concerns as related to the parish council.
  - c. Share in the blessings of the Gospel by sharing the Gospel with others.

### Old Business

1. Concerns about insurance—would individuals be held liable?
  - a. We are considered an entity of the diocese. Each parish mission under the control of the bishop is covered from public liability. This covers any authorized person working as an agent or volunteer under the scope of their duties.
  - b. We are still not completely clear on new procedures after the diocese declared bankruptcy.
  - c. This specific insurance policy is dated October 2018. A copy has come every year but nothing has changed since October 2018.
  - d. We have a leger page.
  - e. Catholic Mutual is not an insurance company. It's a nonprofit with a treasury. Do they have the financial capacity to fund liabilities? These are questions we still have.
  - f. Is Christ the King Parish a corporation and separate from the Diocese of Norwich, and thus does that protect us from some of the bankruptcy issues?
  - g. In the past, if anything happened in a parish the diocese would step in. Now, the diocese cannot do that, so if there's an issue the parish must face it on its own.
  - h. Every parish has the same insurance. We may not even be able to pursue our own insurance.
  - i. We could use legal advice. Do we need to get our own coverage?
  - j. The finance council was trying to determine what our policy actually covers. We are not 100% sure what is our coverage versus the global coverage.
  - k. The current liability coverage covers – no one can sue the diocese after March. But as an individual parish we could be sued at any time.
  - l. We have coverage for the building, but if someone sues (slip and fall, abuse, etc.) what we have for coverage is unclear.
  - m. If one of the partner parishes is sued and they don't have enough coverage, would we have to cover it?

- n. We should document the questions and then document the answers. Anyone with questions should send them to Jean.
  - o. Can we have supplementary coverage with another company? Perhaps if there is an exclusion for sexual misconduct.
  - p. Let's wait until we get Fr. T. here.
  - q. How long until we can rely on the diocese once again? Maybe never. It will be a long time.
2. Ministry Fair—next steps
- a. Megan has the lists
  - b. The goals are to contact everyone who signed up for everything
  - c. There's some finagling to fit names into Parish Soft due to categorization on types of volunteers. We don't have to wait for that to contact people.
  - d. For the reception for the advent concert, about 30% of the people who volunteered on the baking list helped.
  - e. Next steps—ministry leaders getting lists, putting together a spreadsheet of volunteers, getting in touch with them.
  - f. Erica can scan the original sign up sheets to send to ministry leaders so they have the names and contact information. Ask ministry leaders to respond, and if they don't we can contact them by phone.
3. Steeple and Rectory
- a. They thought they were finished, but the guy who does the sheet rock inspected it and was not satisfied, so areas were repainted.
  - b. There may be more work in the spring to prevent damage due to driving rain.
  - c. If there is additional leakage, will that damage the sheetrock that was just put up? To some extent. It may be a couple of drops, but nothing to require a redo of the work just done. There may be some sealing outdoors.
4. Advent Mission—recap
- a. It was really great—beautiful music, a beautiful talk, adoration, benediction, prayer—a little bit of everything.
  - b. 162 people attended
  - c. It brought in \$1558, but cost \$2500 plus \$500 for the sound man, plus travel expenses. We split their travel costs from Staten Island
  - d. Was it worth it? Absolutely. We shouldn't be looking entirely at money.
  - e. There is a question from a preparation and advertising standpoint. What are people conjuring when they hear "mission"? This mission is not what most people conjure when they hear "mission." If there's a clear idea of what it is and the entire congregation understands that, it would help.
  - f. This was a Catholic mission. There was adoration, there were other aspects that were purely Catholic. Dom's talk was phenomenal. Wouldn't hesitate to bring them back in.
  - g. Maybe an extended Parish retreat day—people get together in small groups and build upon the energy
  - h. If we do something like this again, build it better. If there had been 300 or 400 people, there wouldn't be the same financial concerns and there would be more joy spreading through the community.
  - i. It was a good first try. The next time, we'll have more information to go on.



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- j. Let's think of something in the summer, when our population is bigger, there's more time to plan, and it's a new fiscal year. We could make it about Mary and the Assumption.

### **New Business**

1. Advent preparations—supplies and support personnel
  - a. Immaculate Conception on Wednesday
  - b. Gaudete Sunday is this coming weekend
  - c. Who lights the wreath? This year we're doing the lectors.
  - d. Schedule question: What is the schedule on Mary Mother of God, January 1?
    - i. 9 a.m. that morning (Saturday), no vigil mass Friday night
    - ii. Christmas Masses
  - e. Has there been a discussion on mandating masks again?
  - f. We could say something to encourage people to wear them with the coming Christmas season? An email would be a good idea
  - g. We can have an offertory procession
2. Central Repository for Files
  - a. Verify with Jean that we are 501c3.
  - b. Preference was Google
3. Committee presentation schedule for February and March Meetings
  - a. Someone from the committee come and say yes we've met, we've talked about these things.
  - b. We already talked about who is interested in which committee, but we need to iron out the details
  - c. Ron will go through the committees and make a suggestion for the committees based on which committee might be prepared to do that.
  - d. Have any committees met yet?
    - i. Example: The Liturgical Committee has met, but the overall Liturgy, Spirituality, and Christian Service Committee has not met.
    - ii. Education, Liturgy, Parish Life, Property
    - iii. In February we'll focus more on the committees
4. Other new business
  - a. Should the 5 p.m. mass change to 4 p.m. to accommodate seniors who don't want to go out in the dark
  - b. The Annual Report from the Financial Committee is almost done and a draft will be available in the next week.

Future Meetings: Wednesday, February 2; Monday, March 7