



# Saint Bartholomew Church

Faith. Fellowship. Service.

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## PASTORAL COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes Jan. 17, 2024

**Present:** Fr. Andrew Umberg, Jerry Yox, Joe Arnold, Joy Niehaus, Jon Tobin, Ashley Evans, Colleen Wietmarschen, Kathy Rothschild (Director of Administration and Finance), Charlie McDonald (Pastoral Council Secretary)

**Absent:** Joanne Hauser, Ken Radziwon

**Guests:**

**Opening:** The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by council chair Jerry Yox, with Fr. Umberg saying the opening prayer.

### **Approval of 8/16/23 and 10/18/23 Council Minutes:**

Jerry Y said we'll approve the minutes at our next meeting.

### **Christmas Discussion - Father Umberg:**

- Fr. Umberg said he was very pleased with the way the new Christmas display turned out, and is very thankful to the dedicated parishioners who put in a lot of time and effort to make the display a success. He would like to especially thank Joe Arnold, Mike Hauser, Mollie Auberger, Ken Radziwon and Mary Choromokos.
- The display turned out to be more complicated than Father originally anticipated and involved much more work than just relocating an existing display from his previous parish. Father was very pleased with the results and was glad he and his parishioner helpers persevered to finish it about a week before Christmas. One reason he wanted to finish the display before Christmas was to show it to the John Paul II and St. Vivian school children before the Christmas break.
- Father said there was no expense to the parish for the display since the materials and labor were donated.
- There will be a few additions to the display next year including two more blue panels, and more platform space for some additional trees. After the display was taken down, it was stored in the rectory.
- Fr said the 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Bartholomew was well attended but attendance at the 10:30 pm Mass was light. Even though attendance was down, Father feels it was a good move to change the Mass from 9:30 to 10:30 pm and will keep this Mass time for next year. The 11:15 Christmas Day Mass was well attended. All agreed the mass schedule was good.

### **Beacons of Light and Pastor's Update-Father Umberg:**

- Father said very few changes have been made since his last Beacons update. He had hoped to make some streamlining of the family of parishes' daily Mass schedule by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 but has decided to wait. He feels we're not yet far along in the process to do any more streamlining at this time. One item he mentioned was that it will be difficult to have Masses at two parishes on Mondays due to Priests' schedules.

- Father said we're quite fortunate that both Fr. Haft and Fr. George plan to stay in our family of parishes at least until the 5-year plan has been implemented. Some of the other parish families may be losing one of their parochial vicars so hopefully we're safe.
- Father said we're about halfway through the first phase of the Beacons process and there likely will be no announcement about OLODP family church closings for quite a while. One nearby church, St. Matthias, has closed.
- Jon T asked if having a school in a parish impacts whether the parish that hosts the school will remain open. Father said the churches and schools are distinct entities and one does not necessarily have an impact on the other when deciding which churches will remain in use. At this point, Father said he does not plan to recommend closure of any of our family of parishes schools as long as they stay viable and self-sufficient. He said EdChoice should help.
- Father said to expect another update about the Beacons process sometime during Lent.
- Archbishop Schnurr will be retiring, and a new Archbishop will likely be named no later than July 2025.
- Jon asked about a replacement for Joanne Statt. Father and Kathy said they are actively looking for a replacement and hope to have the position filled very soon.
- Jon asked if the OLODP family will be implementing any new social media communications tools such as Instagram. Father said he would like to form a communications committee for OLODP and hopes to have a meeting in early March to discuss.
- Father said he will check to see if Stricker's Grove is available for an OLODP family picnic this summer.
- Jerry asked when we should have our next meeting; after checking his schedule, Father said March 6<sup>th</sup> will work.

**Next meeting:** Wed. March 6, 2024 at 7 pm.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Fr. Umberg.

Respectfully submitted by Charlie McDonald.