

ST. EDMUND CAMPION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Lori Brunette at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Lori Brunette, Sheila DeLaura, Alma Dulude, Bob Falkevitz, Leo Forte, Marie Gallo-Garabedian, Henry Genga, Phil Gosselin, Fr. John Gwozdz, Barbara Hanson, Jean Nowik, Laraine Olinatz, Stephen Roczynski, Elizabeth Shaker, Maria Sousa, Jim Sundin, Anne Marie Volowski, Mary Whaples, and James Wilson

Absent: Bill Bartlett, Kristi Gillespie, Peter Marra, Fr. Joseph Moonnanappallil, and Joan Perrone

- Opening Prayer was delivered by Anne Marie Volowski

- Jim Wilson made a motion, and Anne Marie Volowski seconded it that the Minutes of the October 22, 2018, meeting be approved after a correction to the Pastor's Report changing the spelling in bullet #5 from "shines" to "shrines" and "hand" to "hang."

- **Pastor's Report:**
 - The Archdiocese is having a 175-year celebration Mass on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at the Cathedral in Hartford and has asked that each Parish send two representatives to deliver two packets of historical parish material to be included in a time capsule to be buried on the Cathedral grounds and the Archdiocese Archives. Lori Brunette and Elizabeth Shaker will represent St. Edmund Campion Parish.
 - The Facebook page for the Parish is up and running with the help of Lori Brunette and Leo Forte.
 - We are preparing for Advent. New candles have been purchased for the Advent wreath.
 - The Thanksgiving Mass was held on Thursday and was well attended.

- **President's Report:**

- The Parish pictorial will be taking place after the first of the year. I spoke with Richard Buck and will touch base again after the first to see if there are any specials at that time. Barbara Hanson and Joan Perrone have volunteered to be on the committee. Bonnie is offering her services for the layout, but I am still looking for additional volunteers especially on the days of picture taking. Anyone who is interested, please let me know.
- Parish Council minutes will be posted on the Parish website after they have been approved by the Council.
- All ministries and committees are published on the Parish website with the chair's names and phone numbers. If you would like your email addresses as well as your contact information, please let Bonnie know.
- Lori found a past stewardship booklet and is in the process of updating it. It will be posted on the website as well along with hardcopies. This will be used when promoting the various ministries of the Parish.
- If anyone needs to submit information to the bulletin, the deadline each week is Wednesday before 2:00 p.m. At that time, Bonnie submits the information to the publisher for printing. If there is a special holiday the deadline may change. I am glad to see that many of you are using the bulletin to advertise events and get your information out. The bulletin information is also on line and I have posted a link to it from our Facebook page.

- **Ministry Report Discussion**

- Some of the ministry reports continue to be submitted late. Please make every effort to get them in on time (1 week prior to the Parish Council Meeting) as they have to go out to all members and I cannot keep sending our revisions because several members receive these by mail.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Altar Committee – Bonnie Szalay

Nothing to Report

Altar Server - Bonnie Szalay

We've been running an ad in the parish bulletin for a couple of weeks in hopes of adding new members to this ministry. The ad has not generated any interest, but Scott Gay who is our 4th grade catechist did submit the names of a few students who are interested. I will follow up with the parents of these students. Father Joseph will oversee the training.

Buildings & Ground – Stephen Roczynski

Current status:

- 1) Church former confessional repair is completed Lights and dimmers were installed
- 2) The food Pantry was moved from the OLOP hall to the OLOP Rectory thanks to help from Peter Mara and guys
- 3) The Heating and cooling project at OLOP are underway, Demo and door replacement is in process
- 4) I am working with someone to move handrails at ST. Christopher Campus
- 5) Snow Removal at both campuses' will be completed by Peter Mara Landscaping
- 6) The Fire alarm at the ST. Chris Campus will be underway in the next two weeks

Chancel Choir Ministry – Roberta De Fiore

Nothing to Report

Consolation – Jean Nowik

At this year's Memorial Mass which was held on November 4th there were over 200 candles lit in honor of loved ones. One special candle was lit for Jesus requested by a wonderful 3-year-old. For next year we are hoping to

purchase longer burning candles. Thank you so much of the many many wonderful people who made this Mass a success.

Counters - Bonnie Szalay

Nothing to Report

Decorating – Lori Brunette

The Altar Committee will decorate for Advent like years past. Will be looking for volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. Decorating on Friday, December 21 or Saturday, December 22 would be okay if decorating can't be done on Sunday, December 23 or Monday, December 24. If the decorating is done Friday or Saturday, then perhaps the windows of the church could be decorated after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday so that we can still celebrate Advent with fewer decorations. De-decorating will be after Epiphany, January 6th. I have Monday 12/24 off from work. Will put it out to all the past volunteers to see what works best for everyone.

At Our Lady of Peace Campus, the decorating has been done by Lorraine Deyette and her husband. We will reach out to her to see if she will be doing this again.

Extraordinary Minister – Sheila DeLaura

There are 8 people interested in being Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. We are looking into doing half a schedule just through the holidays because Fr. Joseph needs time to get the new individuals trained and confirmed.

Family Choir – Toni Mintel

We have increased slightly in size with the addition of another mom and daughter from the school.

We had our November Children's Liturgy today and used song lyric booklets to reference songs not in the hymnal. Thank you to Maria and Bonnie for formatting.

Tuesday, 11/20 we plan our outreach to Salmon Brook and I anticipate about 6-10 participating, possibly more, in this program. Another outreach is tentatively being planned for 12/20.

Along with 2 other speakers, I met with the confirmation candidates on service methods involving music within our parish and community.

Hopefully this meeting organized by Kristy Gillespie will encourage participation from our high schoolers.

Food Bank – Diane Warner

Baskets for Thanksgiving are being packed on Thursday, November 15 and clients are picking them up on Saturday afternoon November 17 between 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fund Raising - Barbara Hanson

Nothing to Report

Greeters – Anne Marie Volowski

Spoke to the pre-confirmation class of 9th& 10th grades on Sunday, November 4, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. about the Parish Greeters Ministry as a pre-confirmation service project. Tomorrow morning will pick up the greeters' badges for the adults and one greeter who is doing it as a service project. Will talk to Father John about having a commissioning ceremony for greeters.

Home Bound – Barbara Casey

Nothing to Report

**An email was received by Lori from Barbara but there was no message attached. Reached out twice to Barbara since then but have not received a response. Will try to contact her by phone.

HomeFront – Deacon Phil Gosselin

St. Edmund Campion Parish will have a team working on HomeFront Day 2019! HomeFront Day is always the 1st Saturday in May. We have been publicizing in the bulletin about the opportunity for anyone in the parish that could you use the assistance of HomeFront to apply. It's great to help an East Hartford neighbor in need; it would be extra special to assist a parishioner in need.

Hospitality – Leo Forte

First Hospitality Sunday in October went well. Was expecting to get better response for this month's 7th Grade invite for support. People who assisted included Liz Shaker, Keith and Marie Gallo-Garabedian and Ruby Birdseye. Maria Sousa will continue reaching out to parents and families of CCD students for support (people supplying food seems to be decent). I

will continue sending out reminders prior to each event with the hope of seeing more replies in the future. Would like to build a solid distribution list of committee members willing to help if needed (but not obligated to attend every hospitality event if they already have plans). I would like to bring this up at this month's Parish Council meeting. With the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays quickly approaching I would suggest waiting until at least January to re-visit and attempt to initiate the quarterly get-togethers for parishioners at both campuses, as there is already a lot of activity going on this time of year.

Knights of Columbus – Ernie Mintel

Council 4 met for our monthly meeting on 11/1.

Members planted flags at town cemeteries on 11/3 in honor of Veteran's Day.

Members participated in 40 Days for Life Eucharistic Adoration on 11/2.

Bob Falkevitz attended a ceremony and reception at the KofC Museum on 10/27 to receive the Star Council Award.

Oscar Mejia held a member benefits educational event in the church hall on 10/20.

Members will cook for the annual Breakfast with Santa holiday event at the school on 12/2.

The Council will have a Pot Luck dinner for members and family on 12/18.

The Council has been awarded the distinction of 4-Star Council for 2017/2018 fraternal year. This award recognizes overall excellence in the area of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities. This award was presented to the membership by the Connecticut State Council Officers at a special ceremony held on October 28, 2018. It is the second year in a row we have achieved the award.

We try to assist in various ministries in the parish and in the town. We are cooking at the Breakfast with Santa. We assisted with putting flags on graves for Veteran's Day. There are individuals on Honor Guard who assist at various events. We have sponsored the pilgrims who will be going to World Youth Day in Panama. We also sponsor several fundraiser dinners throughout the year.

A widow has donated 2 pancake batter dispensers to the council and can be used by anyone having a breakfast function at the church.

Lectors - Bonnie Szalay

Nothing to Report

Library – Joan Perrone

Nothing to Report

Outreach – Marie Garabedian

This year began a new tradition for New England Catholic Schools to promote their programs during the first week of November before the snow flies. The National Catholic School week is still being held the last week of January, however in New England we sometimes lose out on some activities due to the bad weather. We will still celebrate the typical Catholic Schools Week at the end of January.

Mrs. Mary Mitchell and National Junior Honor Society started a new after school program called Study Buddies. They meet on Wednesday's after school and is open to all St. Christopher Students who may need some assistance with their studying and homework.

On Friday, November 16th the School hosted its 10th Annual Pep Rally. The evening was also dedicated to Alzheimer awareness with November being Alzheimer awareness month. The Cheerleaders hosted drawings that had the proceeds going to Alzheimer's awareness. This is yet another one, of the many, social justice projects the children sponsor throughout the School year. During this evening of high energy, the Cheerleaders along with Girls and Boys Basketball teams were introduced for the 2018/2019 season. It was an evening filled with loads of fun. There was parent - player games and even a Dance off, that paired off Mrs. Welch and the Coaches against The Cheerleaders. This year, it was a close completion with the Cheerleaders being victorious over the staff. It was a great night with the Kids displaying their school spirit and their true love of our Parish School. The Candy Bar Fundraiser has begun, you will start to see families selling Candy bars to help them defray their required fundraising fee.

Sunday, December 2, 2018, the School is hosting Breakfast with Santa from 9:00AM to 12Noon. This is a Delicious Pancake breakfast prepared by our Knights of Columbus Council. Santa will be there to accept letters and pose for photos. There are also crafts for the Children, a Christmas express gift shop and gift and 50/50 Drawings. Cost is \$8 per person, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for Children and a Family max of \$24. Please come out to support our Parish School.

The Santa breakfast is being held this Sunday. We are looking for volunteers to help set up the school gym at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.

PIN – Toni Mintel

Currently assisting 3 parishioners

Prayer Line – Sally Ann Tanasi

Added prayers for more people to participate

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Santa Vallone

Nothing to Report

Prayer/Sharing Group – Barbara Hanson

Our Prayer/Sharing Group held its final 2018 meeting on Thursday, November 15th. Even with the snow we had eight people attend. We had pizza and watched the movie “Heaven is for Real” as a celebration of our gathering this year.

We will start up again in the spring – usually the week after Easter.

We have a Core Group that is responsible for running the weekly meetings that include Barbara Veci, PhylTyrseck, Leo Forte, Pat Roberge and Barbara Hanson.

All members of St. Edmund Campion Parish and their friends are invited to attend. The evening consists of Prayer, Song, Scripture Sharing and Friendship. Refreshments are served following each meeting and all are welcome to stay. Please join us – we would love to have you come.

Pro-life – Deacon Phil Gosselin

The 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration for 40 Days for Life went well. St. Edmund Campion Parish's 24-hour period began at 6:00 am on November 2nd and concluded on November 3rd at 6:00 am. Thank you to all the prayer warriors that participated to offer prayers for respect of life at all stages.

Please keep the Birthright organization in your prayers as well. The East Hartford office is one of the most stable and vibrant in the state but the challenges of getting volunteers, especially Friendship Counselors is an ongoing battle, as well as reaching the women that are in crisis pregnancies in this ever-changing marketing configuration is difficult. We recently found out the Newington Birthright office has closed. I'm told the primary reason was lack of volunteers. Our president, Mary McNamara has put out a plea for some younger Friendship Counselors. Many of our Counselors have been serving for many years and Mary believes some younger folks could connect better with the young women that are our more typical client. If anyone knows of any pro-life young people that might

consider volunteering please call Mary at 860-290-8800. Thank you to all who support our local office financially or by volunteering.

Publicity – Leo Forte

Saint Edmund Campion Parish (Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace, and Saint Christopher Churches) now has its own official Facebook page (search on "Saint Edmund Campion Parish, East Hartford"). Many thanks to Father John and Lori Brunette for their help and patience with getting this up and running. Bonnie has included this information on the cover of the weekly Church bulletin and will run the Facebook article for several weeks. Father John is the official administrator (he will review and approve all visitor posts before they are visible to the public), and I will serve as his backup (page editor). We welcome all visitor posts, and their accompanying photos. As of approx. 1 week since startup (Nov. 12) there have been 102 likes, 146-page views, and we have published 14 posts. I will update these statistics again right before the actual Parish Council meeting next week. ** Update: 113 likes, over 200 views and we have posted 25 articles. We discussed seeing if one of our own parishioners would be interested in taking over as official parish photographer (volunteer position) at various Church events - somebody with a camera and a lot of enthusiasm and pride for taking pictures. Plan to bring this up at this month's PC meeting. We will regularly post the Hospitality Sunday events on the Facebook page, and begin submitting them to the Gazette starting in December. Publicity for monthly Social club meetings is already being handled by Joan Perrone (Church bulletin and Gazette). Publisher and contact for the Gazette is Bill Doak, and we have his email address now. All noteworthy items should continue to be submitted to the weekly Church bulletin and Bonnie.

Religious Education (K-8) – Maria Sousa

We are continuing with our community service drive. This month we are collecting food. All donations will be given to the Hartford Catholic Worker House.

In December will be collecting Underwear and Socks.

We will be starting rehearsals on Dec. 2nd for the children's Christmas Play that will take place on January 6th in the school gym, from 9:00-10:00am you are all invited.

On December 2nd we will be having a “pretend Mass” in the church. All Religious Education classes and teachers will be attending. All parents /Guardians have been invited. You are also invited to attend, it’s during class time 9:15-10:15am. Fr. John will be explaining the Mass.

We had a catechist meeting on November 11th, after the meeting the teachers attended a Pre-Advent Program offered by Kristi Gillespie, the youth/confirmation coordinator in the gym.

The students also had a Pre-Advent Program presented to them upstairs in the community room they had activities where the older students helped the younger ones, also talked about the Advent Wreath, and had one to show them.

On November 18th we celebrated another children’s Mass with the 7th grade students from the School and Religious Education hosting the Mass.

The next children’s Mass will be December 16th. Six grades will be hosting.

Social Club – Joan Perrone

Nothing to Report

St. Edmund Campion Award – Jim Wilson

Nomination request has been turned into Bonnie for publication in the bulletin.

Vacation Bible Camp – Maria Sousa

Nothing to Report

Youth Ministry and Confirmation Report – Kristi Gillespie

Nothing Submitted

New Business:

The Parish Council Social will be held on December 14, 2018, in the hall at the St. Christopher campus at 6:00 p.m.

Members Concern:

Barbara Hanson brought up an issue when counting the envelopes each week. A black sticky substance has been found on many of the envelopes

and the money. It is very difficult to clean up. Bob Falkevitz thought it might be coming from some of the collection baskets.

****Update:** Denise Rioux inspected the collection baskets and found the foam lining on two of the baskets was decomposing. This material could not be removed so Denise relined these two baskets with felt. This should eliminate the problem.

Closing Prayer - Anne Marie Volowski

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise B. Rioux