

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting Notes
Monsignor Reinbold Hall
November 12, 2025

ATTENDEES: Cathy Alegre, Geri Azert, Michelle Bockin, Jim Brennan, Alicia Bruno, Mike DeVilliers, Missy Gervasini, Msgr. Ken, Sandra Koenig, Christina Lejda, Mary Anne Moresco, Tom Moresco, Dominick Pizarro, Jim Stewart, Fran Thompson, Gary Thompson

MEETING OPENED: Msgr. Ken opened the meeting in prayer at 7:06. P.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

MEETING NOTES: The meeting notes from October were approved.

ACTION ITEMS: The Action Items from October were reviewed and are updated as reflected in these notes.

MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNICATIONS: Tom reported for Dan on Communications. Handouts were provided by Dan to Tom to update the Council on Communications and social media, as follows:

- There were 5,200 YouTube hits in the last 28 days.
- The heaviest users are age 65 and over because that is the age group most reflected in our parish.
- Instagram has 326 users.
- Overall website hits peak in July. This may be due to the carnival.
- To effectively communicate information, there is a need to use more than one communications channel.
- Dan would like to increase use of Flocknote for the parish.

HOSPITALITY: Missy reported on Hospitality, as follows:

- **BREAKFAST AT BARNEGAT**
 - The last breakfast went well with about 100 people in attendance.
 - The next breakfast is Sunday, 11/16.
 - There are now advance announcements when the basement will be shut down for Mass so that people can be informed ahead of time.
- **DECEMBER 6 TREE LIGHTING:** There will be cookies, hot chocolate, milk and whipped cream. Diane and Sue will be coordinating this as Missy will be away.
- **OUR LADY OF FATIMA HOME VISITATIONS:** The Our Lady of Fatima home visitations are going well. Consistently, there are about four families receiving the statue each month.

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Alicia reported on prayer intentions.

- There are currently a few hundred prayer intentions every week.

- With the prayer intention email, a video which corresponds to the liturgical readings is included.

WELCOME CENTERS: Alicia reported on the Welcome Centers.

- When items are to be put at the Welcome Center, Alicia needs to be informed in advance.
- Ministries are to have only one advertisement at a time.
- For some inexplicable reason, there are 22 water bottles at the Barnegat Welcome Center.

FAMILY MINISTRY: Geri reported on the family ministry, as follows:

- Membership is increasing and there are currently seven members in the family ministry.
- They have had successful events including movie night with the ice cream truck and the Fall Harvest with about 35 children plus parents.
- On December 7, there will be a Christmas Family breakfast with Santa, with the Knights cooking breakfast. There will be face painting and a balloon man.
- A key goal of this ministry is to keep things going with consistent periodic events.

LITURGY COMMITTEE: Msgr. Ken reported on the Liturgy Committee.

- There are eight new altar servers.
- Feedback from Council members was given as follows:
 - **PRE-MASS ANNOUNCEMENTS:** These announcements for how to receive Communion are helpful and need to continue.
 - **PRECIOUS BLOOD:** People need to be educated to say “Amen” after receiving the Precious Blood, also when receiving the Host.
 - **GLUTEN ALLERGIES IN CHILDREN:** There is a need to educate ushers that some children only receive the Precious Blood due to severe gluten allergies.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Msgr. Ken will talk to Ed about the need to educate that in some instances a child can only receive the Precious Blood because of severe gluten allergies.
 - **TRAFFIC CONTROL:** Traffic control at the 8:00 a.m. Mass was discussed. Having ushers go downstairs first before giving communion to those in the back appears to have complicated things. The consensus seemed to be that it was better left the way things were. The 8:00 ushers know who needs Communion. One suggestion was to identify those individuals by giving them a special cross to hold.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Tom will send an email to Msgr. Ken re: discussing traffic control at Mass and concerns. Msgr. Ken will discuss with Deacon Phil.

PATH MINISTRY: Mike reported on the Programs Assisting the Homeless (PATH) Ministry.

- The backpack drive was successful and this Saturday (11/15) this ministry hopes to assemble over 125 backpacks. They will be distributed almost immediately.

- The “Family of Five” is now in transitional housing with Family Promise.
- A mom was assisted with a security deposit so that she could obtain permanent housing and find a permanent housing solution.
- This ministry is taking care of three unsheltered individuals providing them with cold weather gear and continuing to connect with them.
- Work is underway to form an intake staff.
- There has been wonderful collaboration with all the ministries.
- Informal conversations have begun with Habitat for Humanities. There is hope that houses might be built for some of the families needing help.
- Once the 501(c)(3) is approved, Department of Community Affairs (DCA) grants will open up as a possibility.

“WHO CAN WE HELP” PROGRAM: Fran reported on the *Who Can We Help* program. This is going well. Last month \$400.00 was collected. And over \$400.00 has already been collected this month.

ACTION ITEM: Tom will update the *Who can we Help* envelope template to indicate donations can also be dropped off at the rectory.

MIRACLE MONDAYS: Michelle reported on Miracle Mondays that all was going well. She is seeing new faces.

HOLY FACE MINISTRY: Tom read a report provided by Christine.

- The October devotion went well with about 25 people attending.
- The security concern was addressed with three ushers available to assist.
- The prayers may be tweaked to allow more time for contemplation.
- New flyers with the 2026 dates will be available at the December 2 devotion.

UGANDA: Msgr. Ken reported on the Uganda Ministry.

- Fr. Vincent is now Vicar General for his diocese and will no longer be at Holy Trinity.
- He will be visiting November 22-23 and 29-30.
- There will be second collections on these weekends.
- The twinning ministry will have a luncheon for him.

ENOUGH!: Sandra reported on the Enough! ministry.

- This ministry is looking forward to the last event of the year—The Lazarus Mass/Memorial Mass on Tuesday, November 25.
- The Rosary will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- A talk will be given on grief and healing before the Mass at 7:20.
- The Lazarus Mass/Memorial Mass will begin at 7:30.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: Tom read a report provided by Felicia on the bereavement ministry.

- The bereavement ministry recently had a 6-week bereavement support group which used a Catholic-based program called “Seasons of Hope.”
- The next session is scheduled for May-June 2026.
- The goal is to have two sessions per year.
- This ministry will have a Mass at the end of January 2026 for those who have died by suicide.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Tom read a report provided by Kyle on the Knights of Columbus.

- The Christmas market is scheduled for Saturday, November 29.
- The Knights will be cooking breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 7.
- The Knights will be serving hot chocolate from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the CHRISTmas Family Fun Day on December 7. The bell tower will be lit at 6:00 p.m. that night.

RESPECT LIFE: Mary Anne gave an update on the Respect Life Committee.

- Thanks to the cooks who cooked a great meal for the Respect Life breakfast.
- The next spiritual adoption is scheduled for the second week in January.
- There is a need to heighten awareness of how the spiritual adoption program works. Respect Life members may provide a less than one minute explanation on this weekend during pre-Mass announcements, if no conflict exists.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MINISTRY FAIR: Dominick reported on the Ministry Fair.

- The Ministry Fair is scheduled for Saturday, February 14, Valentine’s day from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.
- Before the Ministry Fair, ministry leaders will meet for one hour at 11:00 a.m. to learn how to use Flocknote. Food is to be determined.

TREE LIGHTING: The tree lighting will be held after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 6 at the Pines, with Santa. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available.

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY: On Saturday, December 13 there will be a blessing of the new nativity at Barnegat, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

CHRISTMAS GIFT: For the Christmas gift this year, Msgr. Ken has purchased a Liturgical calendar which follows the Liturgy throughout the year.

OUTREACH POSTCARD: Tom reported on the outreach postcard. Dates and times were finalized during the meeting. Comments were requested by 3:00 p.m. and the postcard will be sent to the printer tomorrow. (Thursday, 11/13)

FACILITIES MANAGER: Tony Grabowski will be facilities manager for all parish properties.

PARISH MISSION: The parish mission is next week.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS AND DATES: The upcoming parish events and dates were reviewed on the attached schedule (Att. 1) and on the outreach postcard.

DECEMBER 2025 AGENDA TOPICS:

- **COME BACK TO CHURCH NIGHTS:** Msgr. will start “back to church” nights in January. People will be invited to come back to ask questions.
- **PODCAST:** Msgr. will be starting a podcast with the deacons.
- **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10. Please bring finger food for Christmas.

ACTION ITEMS: *The action items are as follows:*

- Msgr. Ken will talk to Ed about the need to educate that in some instances a child can only receive the Precious Blood because of severe gluten allergies.
- Tom will send an email to Msgr. Ken re: discussing traffic control at the 8:00 a.m. Mass and concerns. Msgr. Ken will discuss with Deacon Phil.
- Tom will update the *Who can we Help* envelope template to indicate donations can also be dropped off at the rectory.

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for:

- Healing of Deanna who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer,
- Healing of Jim Stewart’s brother Richard who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer,
- Healing of Cary, a mother of two young children, who is in the hospital recovering from a brain aneurism,
- Healing of John D, Christina’s co-worker, facing medical issues and migraine headaches,
- Healing of Dina who has a spot on her chest x-ray.
- Repose of the soul of a hit and run victim in Little Egg Harbor, and for the conscience of the person who fled the scene.
- Hearts to turn to God so that abortion will stop,
- Unity within the church,
- Special intention for Alicia’s son,
- Alicia’s daughter’s baby due in January,
- Alicia’s Father-in-law moving in; for good transition and situation to go well,
- Homes for the unsheltered
- Lois Robert
- Our parish
- Msgr.’s Grandnephew born last week
- Safe travels for Michelle and all those going on pilgrimage to Italy.
- Those who receive the postcard invitation to come back to the church.

MEETING CLOSED: Msgr. Ken closed the meeting in prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Moresco

Recording Secretary

Attachment (1)

Attachment 1: CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**NOVEMBER**

Sun, Nov. 16	Breakfast at Barnegat	After 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses		Barnegat
Sun., Nov 16 to Nov. 20	Parish Mission	7:00 p.m.		Pines
Mon. Nov. 24	Miracle Mondays	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.		Barnegat
Tues., Nov. 25	Enough! Ministry	Rosary begins at 7:00 p.m. Lazarus Mass/Memorial Mass at 7:30 p.m.	Includes talk on grief and healing before Mass beginning at 7:20	Barnegat
Sat., Nov. 29	Christmas Market	Knights of Columbus		Pines

DECEMBER:

Tues. Dec 2	Holy Face Devotion		7:00 p.m.	Pines
Tues. Dec. 6	Tree Lighting	With Santa, hot chocolate, cookies	After 4:00 p.m. Mass	Pines
Sun. Dec. 7 CHRISTmas Family Fun Day	Morning: Knights will be cooking for the Christmas Breakfast in the morning. Free family and children activities ----- Evening; Bell Tower Lighting, live nativity, SMA Christmas Carols in the evening Choir concert	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 9 a.m. to 12:00 Noon 5-8 p.m.		Pines

Friday, December 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Consecration Mass	And Celebration	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 13	Lighting and blessing	Of Nativity		After 5:30 p.m. Mass; Barnegat
Tues., Dec. 16 To Dec. 23	Start of Pasada Novena	7:00 p.m. daily		Pines
Wed., Dec. 17	Simbang Gabi Rosary & Mass	6:30 p.m. Rosary 7:00 p.m.: Mass		Pines
Christmas in a box/meal to go		11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.		Pines
Mon. Dec. 29	Miracle Mondays	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.		Barnegat

JANUARY, 2026:

Sat., Sun. Jan 10- 11	Respect Life	Spiritual Adoption	After Mass	Barnegat and Pines
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FEBRUARY, 2026:

Sat., Feb 14	Ministry Flocknote Training (11- 12:00 noon) /Ministry Fair (12:00 noon- 2:00 p.m.)	Parish Center	Ending by 2:00 p.m.	Pines
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