

## DRAFT

### St. Mary's Parish Council Meeting Notes December 10, 2025

**ATTENDEES:** Cathy Alegre, Mike DeVilliers, Missy Gervasini, Sandra Koenig, Christina Lejda, Jim Stewart, Msgr. Ken, Joe Martyn, Mary Anne Moresco, Tom Moresco, Dominick Pizarro, Fran Thompson.

**MEETING OPENED:** Msgr. Ken opened the meeting in prayer at 7:04 p.m.

#### COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY UPDATES

- **HOSPITALITY:** Missy reported on the Hospitality Committee. The hospitality breakfasts have gone well, most recently with 100 people at Barnegat. Missy requested a key for the closet with items needed for the breakfasts. **Msgr. Ken will get the key for her.**
  - The upcoming hospitality dates (all at Barnegat) for 2026 are:
    - January 18,
    - February 15,
    - April 19,
    - May 17.

During the tree lighting, this ministry served 225 cups of hot chocolate as well as cookies.

- **PILGRIM STATUE:** Missy reported that the Pilgrim Statue visitation is going well. Mary Beth and Gary were away, so Julian and Sue Eckert were able to deliver the statue. Visitations are booked until February of 2026.
- **FAMILY MINISTRY:** Msgr. Ken reported on the Family Ministry. The Christmas breakfast was wonderful, although a little lightly attended, and the price may need to be reassessed.
  - Maybe next year an attempt can be made to have items for breakfast donated, so that the price can be lowered. **Msgr. will bring this up with the knights.**
  - There were many children, a craft room and a scavenger hunt.
  - Overall, the event went very well.
- **LITURGY COMMITTEE:** Msgr. Ken reported on the Liturgy Committee. The *Come Back to Church Night* and podcasts are works in progress.

- **COMMUNION TRAFFIC:** With respect to the issues and troubles associated with going downstairs first or not to distribute Communion, Msgr. Ken indicated ministers should go back to whatever works. **Tom will write a letter for Deacon Phil to send to the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and the ushers—explaining the reason for the reversion to the previous policy.**
- **HOMELESS COMMITTEE:** Mike reported on the homeless committee.
  - Over 50 backpacks have been distributed.
  - Mike is actively working with four campers who are unsheltered. They were identified as four men who are choosing to be where they are.
  - A “code blue” shelter in Toms River is open every night. Mike indicated that shelters are usually open from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  - **Msgr. Ken will set up a meeting to meet with the Barnegat mayor to determine the parameters of becoming a code blue shelter.**
  - Ten unsheltered people in the town are needed before the state will step in to provide financial and other assistance. Mike indicated we should have no problem coming up with ten unsheltered people.
- **WHO CAN WE HELP:** Fran reported on the *Who Can We Help* program.
  - Last month’s donation was over \$500.00.
  - This month they are over \$200.
  - A donation of \$1,000.00 was received and a thank you note will be sent from Fran to the donor. Last month’s donation was over \$500.00; already this month donations are over \$200.
- **MIRACLE MONDAYS:** Tom reported on Miracle Mondays.
  - Miracle Mondays continues to be a success with between 70-80 people.
  - Miracle Mondays will continue through 2026.
  - Last year we skipped December but this year we will have Miracle Mondays in December.
- **HOLY FACE:** Christine reported on the Holy Face ministry.
  - At the last Holy Face Devotion, they had about 15 people but it was a beautiful night. The weather was poor, which is likely why attendance was somewhat lower than normal.
  - Normal attendance is holding steady at 20-25 people.
  - Prayers were adjusted to allow for more quiet meditative time.
  - This ministry will adopt the Welcome Center on the weekend of January 17-18. A brief introduction before Mass will be given explaining the Holy Face Ministry. Volunteers are needed at the Pines.
  - February 17 is the feast of the Holy Face. It is the night before Ash Wednesday and the devotion is likely being moved to Barnegat.

- **UGANDA:** Msgr. Ken reported on Uganda.
  - Funds donated from the last visit of Msgr. Vincent will be directed to helping in the repair of the Cathedral.
  - Once the Cathedral is restored, St. Mary's will return its attention to helping St. Mary's in Uganda.
- **ENOUGH!:** Sandra reported on the Enough! ministry.
  - The Mass of Remembrance on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November has received positive feedback.
  - A rosary was prayed before the Mass.
  - A list of names of those who died from substance abuse was read.
  - The keynote speaker had lost a son to an overdose.
  - The consensus is that this event will be repeated next year.
  - The Enough! Ministry will not be meeting in January.
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** The bell tower lighting went well, and the timing of things went perfectly. The Knights have built the new manger at Barnegat.

#### **ADVENT ASSESSMENT:**

- **MISSION:** Great feedback was received on the mission.
- **OUTREACH POSTCARDS:** A total of 1700 postcards were mailed to those Catholics who were not actively practicing in the parish. "Not actively practicing" was defined as not using envelopes and not giving online.
  - Both Barnegat and the Pines had 2,000 postcards and of these 300 are left at each church.
  - Positive feedback was received on the Bell Tower picture which was on the front of the postcard.

**UPCOMING MAJOR PARISH EVENTS:** Upcoming major parish events were discussed as follows:

- **PARISH MINISTRY FAIR:** The Parish Ministry Fair will be held on St. Valentine's Day (12:00 to 2:00 p.m.). A one-hour training session will precede this to explain how to use Flocknote more easily.
  - Last year, 52 people joined a new ministry.
  - A plan for the ministry fair needs to be finalized in January.
  - The expected number of people is 200-300. Something is needed to draw them in.
  - Motivation is needed for ministries to come, and then for parishioners to come as well. (e.g. win a free pizza, who has the most visits to their table? Win a raffle etc.) Bulletins can be stuffed the week before.

**SELF-ASSESSMENT:** Tom led a self-assessment discussion on the Parish Council and its effectiveness to answer the question of *how are we doing?* Feedback was as follows:

- Attendance is good.

- Msgr. said we need to do more to try to get ministries to work together, perhaps inviting groups of similar ministries (birds of a feather) to a Parish Council meeting?
- Thanksgiving for formation of new ministries during the past year.
- Thanksgiving for leadership of Msgr. Ken.

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026:**

- In 2026 we hope to have a Lenten retreat which combines the Spanish and English-speaking communities.
  - Objective: to reach those who are not coming to church
  - Ideas included: use of Sandpaper and other newspapers, social media, “Come Home for Easter,” postcards, St. Mary’s “talk show” where guests come in a talk about what is happening.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Msgr. Ken will:

- Give Missy a key to the closet with the breakfast supplies,
- Talk to the Knights about lowering the price of the breakfast through donations,
- Set up a meeting with the mayor to determine the parameters of a code blue shelter

Tom will write a letter for Deacon Phil to send to the extraordinary ministers of Communion and the ushers. This letter will explain our going back to the previous Communion distribution procedure at Barnegat.

**CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:** The calendar is attached.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Family who lost a baby (Fr. Walter will do funeral tomorrow); Repose of the soul of the baby.
- Repose of the soul of father-in-law of Michell Bockin
- St. Michael Pregnancy Help Center
- Increased Respect for Life
- Healing of Carley from brain aneurism—she is improving
- Ronny Bruno, who is out of the hospital
- Bob the builder
- Joe (for successful surgery)
- Thanksgiving for healing of Richard Frein

**MEETING CLOSED:** Msgr. Ken closed the meeting in prayer at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Moresco

Att.: (1)

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

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
Sun., Jan 18	Hospitality Breakfasts	Msgr. Reibold Hall	After 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. Masses	Barnegat
Sat., Sun, Jan 17-28	HOLY FACE	Staff Welcome Center	Short pre-Mass introduction to Holy Face	Barnegat and Pines

**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
Sun., Feb 18	Hospitality Breakfasts	Msgr. Reibold Hall	After 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. Masses	Barnegat
Tuesday Feb 17-28	HOLY FACE	Day before Ash Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Barnegat

**Future Hospitality Breakfasts:** April 19 and May 17

