

St. Mary's Parish Council Meeting
Monsignor Reinbold Hall
January 14th, 2026
Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES: Cathy Alegre, Michelle Bockin, Ronnie Bruno, Michael Cicero, Mike DeVilliers, Deacon Tony Fierro, Deacon Joe Fiorillo, Christine Flynn, Missy Gervasini, Sandra Koenig, Christina Lejda, Kyle Lewis, Joe Martyn, Denise Meisnest, Tom Moresco, Dominick Pizarro, Jim Stewart, Fran Thompson, Gary Thompson, Monsignor Ken, Maria Villanueva, and Andrew

MEETING OPENED: Msgr. opened the meeting in prayer at 7:10 p.m.

ACTION ITEM REVIEWS: Last month's action items were reviewed and updated as follows:

- 1) Monsignor Ken will give Missy a key to the closet with the breakfast supplies – This is a work in progress. There is not a working key for the closet in question. Don D'Arcy will open the door with a screwdriver. Once the door is opened, a new pad lock system will be installed and codes/keys given out accordingly.
- 2) Monsignor Ken will talk to the Knights about lowering the price of the breakfast through donations – No complaints have been raised or heard about the price of the breakfast. The heads of the Knights of Columbus will continue to take care of this.
- 3) Monsignor will set up a meeting with the mayor to determine the parameters of a code blue shelter – the mayor was contacted and Mike has an update that he will share within this meeting.
- 4) Tom will write a letter to Deacon Phil regarding going back to the previous Communion distribution procedure in Barnegat – Done and traffic control taken care of.

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY UPDATES:

COMMUNICATIONS: The Website usage increased considerably from last year. Mass attendance has increased and Confession times have remained filled. Attendance, overall, for all of the Masses and activities throughout the Christmas season showed a significant increase. Two questions were raised at this point: Should we mail out the postcards again to parishioners who do not appear as active? The answer to this came back: "yes". The second question raised was: Whether we should remain with the postcard design or change to a flyer? It was determined, by those present, that the postcard was the better approach – more formal, attractive, and preferable. It was determined that the Advent Postcards will be done again next year and mailed to parishioners. The Lenten Postcards will be handed out on Ash Wednesday.

HOSPITALITY: Missy reported on the hospitality committee

- **HOSPITALITY BREAKFASTS:** The breakfast in Barnegat scheduled for February 15th is going to be moved to the 22nd. The Hospitality Team will be assisting with the food and providing coffee, tea, Danish, Bagels, etc. for the Many Ministries/Ministry Fair Event on February 14th.

- **VISITING PILGRIM STATUE:** The statue program is going well. Right now, it is slow on new people responding but Missy is not worried as there are many past families to draw from that would like a repeat visit. Those that have had the statue visit often state that she has arrived in times most needed for the family. Her presence has provided help for them and comfort for them in ways they could not have imagined.

NEW PRAYER GROUP: Anna Koodray will be starting a new prayer group at 9:00 following the 8:00 am Mass. It will include: prayer, the rosary, the divine mercy chaplet, and weekly readings.

WELCOME CENTERS: Are looking better and less cluttered.

FAMILY MINISTRY: Monsignor Ken reported that he just arrived from their meeting and that many good ideas have been discussed and are taking place.

- Their Christmas Events went well and they are working on the Easter Event and Palm Sunday Breakfast.
- The ministry will be holding a candy bar bingo in February.
- In summer they are planning a foam party.
- They will also be hosting events at the Parish Picnic in September.

LITURGY COMMITTEE: There are no updates at this time.

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Mike and Denise reported on the Homeless Ministry. The ministry has been reaching out to and helping many people in many different ways. More and more parishioners are stepping forward to offer their help and services. Over the past few months, not only has the ministry continued to grow in numbers – currently around 40 members – but also it has grown in the number of guests that are reaching out to receive assistance. Many backpacks were given out over the holidays. Work has been taking place on the 501c3 and the Ministry Board is coming together. Currently there are two major projects that are being focused on in addition to one that has been a beloved mainstay of the parish's charitable ministries and organizations.

- The first is a Poverty Simulation that will be held, possibly in collaboration with Bayside Chapel, that will cover a walk-through of a typical day of those we help when they show up at the State/County Offices in need of assistance. This simulation is one that will hopefully soften the hearts of those around and help those assisting our "guests" on a daily basis to become aware of areas that need to be improved. The heads of the State, County, and Townships will be invited as well as members of the parish, community, and press.
- The second major project the ministry is involved in is the opening of a Code Blue Warming Center. Once approved, the activation of the center will take place whenever the temperature drops below 32 degrees overnight and a Code Blue status is issued by the state. Members of the State/County team are scheduled to come out tomorrow to evaluate Monsignor Reinbold Hall for this purpose and to determine how many people we will be able to provide shelter for at one time. The hours and days the center will be operational is still under discussion and will be determined by Monsignor Ken and members of the P.A.T.H. ministry, but in essence we

determine the days and times we are open. This will be the first official Code Blue Shelter in Southern Ocean County and our parish is leading the way in this area. St. Mary's is behind it, the county is behind it, and the mayor is behind it. The police in all surrounding areas will also be in the loop. It will take at least three staff members to run the shelter each time it is opened. The salary of the staff, cots, bedding, food for our guests, laundry care, and cleaning supplies are all provided by the State/County each time the shelter is open. Once certified, the certification remains in effect for 10 years.

- The third project this ministry has taken on is The Peaceful Dove Gift Shop. The Peaceful Dove Gift Shop is going to be reorganized, opened, and run by members of the P.A.T.H. Ministry. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday, January 19th at 7:00 pm in Monsignor Reinbold Hall for all those who are interested in taking part.

WHO CAN WE HELP MINISTRY: \$1,700.00 was collected in December. Fran reports that everything is going really well and that the donation sites at the Rectory and St. Mary of the Pines have not run into any issues. Monsignor reports that they received a call from a man who lives in Settlers asking about the "Who Can I Help" blurb in the bulletin. He was calling to see if he would qualify for help of any sort. He was going to be evicted from a rental unit and lose everything. This ministry was able to help him out.

HOLY FACE MINISTRY: Christine reported on the Holy Face Ministry. She stated that this weekend they would be doing podium talks and manning the welcome centers to help spread the news to more people about this ministry.

UGANDA MINISTRY: The Uganda Ministry will be holding their Water Only Wednesday Fundraiser again through lent for the parish at large and has been hosting it through CCD and St. Mary Academy.

ENOUGH MINISTRY: Sandra reports that the ministry meetings will be starting up again the 1st Wednesday in February.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Kyle reported that they had a very successful "Christmas in a Box" event and that the Knights were currently planning for The Knights Dinner for past Grand-Knight Pete Galvano and the upcoming Lenten Fish Frydays. The Knights will also be having their 7 Sorrows of Mary Procession and Event Sunday, March 8th, at 7:00 pm in St. Mary of the Pines. On Monday, March 9th, at 7:00 pm will be the Nailing of the Crosses Event. They are also working on a July celebration for our country.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: Immediately following the Miracle Monday, there will a Mass for those who died from suicide on Monday, January 26th at 7:00 pm. Seasons of Hope Bereavement Support Group sessions will begin again in May the next one will take place in the Fall.

RESPECT LIFE:

- The Spiritual Adoption Program went very well this year. It was much better than years past and it is believed this is due to the podium talks that were given prior regarding the adoption program. 300 names were placed on the board/s immediately following Mass. The ones that people took home to fill in have not yet been added.
- January 23rd will be the annual Mass for Life at St. Robert Bellarmine Church at 11:00 am with the Bishop immediately followed by the Expo for Life Event. The St. Mary's Respect Life Ministry

has a slot as does the St. Michael the Archangel's Team. There will be some light foods and drinks served for those in attendance and a food truck on premise for more substantial sustenance.

- Divine Mercy Sunday is April 12th this year. Currently the Divine Mercy team is considering who to reach out to as a guest speaker.

YOUTH MINISTRY: The ministry is planning a Laser Tag and Pizza Party night February 5th, 2026.

ADVENT AND LENT:

ADVENT ASSESMENT WRAP UP:

- Breakfast went well
- Tower lighting went very well
- Trees/houses were great – sold many more trees and houses than in the past. Trees sell more than houses
- Speaker/Mission very well received
- Concerts/performances were great

LENTEN OUTREACH PREPARATIONS:

- Fish Frydays
- Postcards will be distributed Ash Wednesday – an image is still needed for the front and back of the postcard. Kyle has photos from the 7 Sorrows of Mary that he believes may work.
- Santiago Fernandez will return to the parish March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th – dates and languages still being worked out
- Pre-Lent – Tony Melendez will be at St. Mary of the Pines on Sunday, February 1st for a concert at 6:30 pm. Check to see if assistance will be needed.
- Ash Wednesday – Extend the hours of continuous ash distribution in Barnegat until 6:45 pm just before the 7:00 Mass and in St. Mary of the Pines after the 5:00 pm Mass until 6:45 pm just before the 7:00 Spanish Mass. Sandra offered to help in St. Mary of the Pines. Obtain tiny take-out discs for those wishing to bring ashes home?

PARISH MINISTRY FAIR:

- The parish ministry fair will take place from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm. Food will be on hand and door prizes will be drawn.
- The ministry leaders meeting will take place from 11:00 am until 12:00 noon just prior to the fair. During this time any updates to the ministry information listed in the catalog will be collected. New ministries will introduce themselves. Dan will go over Flocknote.
- Clean-up will take place from 2:00 pm until 3:00 pm
- Council members will be needed to help with the welcome areas, sign-in areas, and enter names into the drawings.
- Ministry heads are to call the Rectory to let them know they will be showing up and also provide the number of additional team members they plan to have on board.

- Flocknotes had been sent out to the ministry leads and council members but not everyone received them – Sandra, Cathy, Christina, and Missy were all missed. Please have Dan resend to Ministry Leads/heads.

MINISTRY CATALOGUES: To be edited per the February Ministry Meeting.

NEW TOPICS/ONE MINUTE ROUND-TABLE:

Ushers - Jim Stewart reported that he routinely serves as an usher for St. Mary's but on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve not all of the Masses had ushers to cover them. (Right now the system is for holidays, whichever Mass an usher chooses to attend, he is to serve – but that often leaves gaps.) Volunteers were able to be obtained for most of the Masses by reaching out to Mass attendees, but once the money was gathered the ushers on hand, that normally assist on Sundays but are not normally in the collection room, were not sure where to put it or how to bag it. Training on collecting and bagging is being requested as well as new ushers. Also the question was raised on how are they to handle a collection when there are not enough volunteers available? Please go over the placement of the collection baskets.

Chapel - It was brought to attention that the upkeep of the Chapel has been in need of help. The candle is often running low or in need of a new insert and the trash has been left to overflowing. The tissue boxes were empty and the window is still broken. Stains remain on the seats and the heat is sometimes raised to 80. In addition, someone has been posting that they would give the code to the Adoration Chapel to anyone who asks.

Dusting Angels – Cathy Alegre stated that the Dusting Angels need help with the ministries using the Divine Mercy Library. Food items have been left all over the place. And the messes that are left, are not small but large ones. Large enough to interfere with any other group scheduled to come in or anyone looking to borrow something from the Library.

- Cleaning supplies are disappearing again. Entire boxes at a time of:
 - Swifters
 - Dusters
 - Windex
 - Mops
 - Mop heads
 - Bathroom tissue
 - Paper towels

It is stated that Al knows but the problem is persisting. Additional help is being requested.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS:

- Meeting for anyone interested in helping out with the gift shop – January 19th at 7:00 pm in Monsignor Reinbold Hall.
- Basketball Game – Tuesday, January 20th

- Tony Melendez – February 1st, 6:30 St. Mary of the Pines
- Ministry Meeting and Fair – February 14th – 11:00 to 2:00 St. Mary’s Parish Center
- Ash Wednesday – February 18th – postcards to be given out
- Fish Fridays – all the Fridays of Lent
- 7 Sorrows of Our Lady – March 8th, 7:00 pm St. Mary of the Pines
- Nailing of the Crosses – March 9th, 7:00 pm St. Mary of the Pines
- Santiago Fernandez - March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th at 7:00 pm in St. Mary of the Pines

LIGHT OF THE WORLD: The retreat is scheduled for July 11th and 12th.

CELEBRATION OF OUR COUNTRY: July

THE APPEALS AND APPARITIONS OF OUR LADY: Will be shown September 12th and 13th.

PARISH PICNIC: The picnic will be September 13th.

PILGRIMAGE TO EWTN: November

ACTION ITEMS:

- Monsignor will check on the upkeep schedule for the Chapel.
- Monsignor will check with Ed regarding additional Usher training.
- Dan will send out a reminder notice of basic housekeeping rules and the importance of cleaning up after their use of room to the ministries and meeting groups that use the Divine Mercy Library.
- Al will be notified by Patrick about the disappearing items from the Dusting Angels closet. Keypad needs to be reset and code given to just those in charge. Patrick will see if more can be done.
- Tom will bring the ministry catalogues to the Ministry Meeting and Fair.
- Dan will resend the Flocknote to the ministry leads and council members for the Ministry Fair.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Lois Roberts
- Bob the Builder
- Continued prayers for a mother with a brain aneurism
- A parishioner who has prostate cancer
- A friend’s mother who is on hospice has reached her end time
- The unsheltered in our community
- For Christine, that her biopsy is benign
- All the unborn children
- Sister who lost her unborn child
- All those we reach out to in our ministries and daily lives

- Pregnancy Center

MEETING CLOSED: Monsignor Ken closed the meeting in prayer at 8:51 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bockin
Corresponding Secretary