

**St. Mary's Parish Council**  
**Meeting Notes, March 11, 2026**

**ATTENDEES:** Cathy Alegre, Michelle Bockin, Peg Buck, Mike Cicero, Mike DeVelliers, Christine Flynn, Lisa Hensle, Msgr. Ken, Sandra Koenig, Christina Lejda, Joe Martyn, Ed Massari, Mary Anne Moresco, Tom Moresco, Dominick Pizarro, Phoebe Pitarresi, Jim Stewart, Fran Thompson, Gary Thompson.

**MEETING OPENED:** Msgr. Ken opened the meeting in prayer at 7:02 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

- **ACTION ITEMS:** The Action Items were reviewed and updated as reflected in these notes.
- **UPKEEP OF ROOMS:** The upkeep of rooms in the Pines has improved.

**POSSIBLE NEW MINISTRY:**

- **NEW MINISTRY PROPOSAL FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Lisa and Phoebe expressed a need for a Catholic social ministry for special needs adults (neurodivergent). There is a need for a meeting place to be able to socialize with like-minded peers.
  - This would be tied to faith and bring people together.
  - Mentioned associations included:
    - Compassionate Café,
    - National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities
    - Holy Innocents
    - A local Christian church has a group called *Wonderfully Made*.
  - Msgr. will research Holy Innocence.
  - Tom will develop a proposed flocknote message and run a draft by Lisa, Phoebe and the Council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Tom presented statistics on St. Mary's website. This demonstrated that over time, the statistics continue to increase in volume. It appears that the postcards had an impact in prompting an increase in website hits.
- **HOSPITALITY:** Missy provided notes on the Hospitality Committee which were read by Tom on her behalf at the meeting.
  - **FOOD FOR MINISTRY FAIR:** The food at the ministry fair was a great success. Missy provided a cost assessment: Bagels (\$37.44), coffee, water, salad, chips, paper plates, forks, knives, spoons, napkins lemonade (\$220.32), lunch box sandwiches—5 trays (\$330.00). The total cost was \$587.96. There was very little

food left, but what was left was dropped off for the MRH PATH and Ken's Kitchen. Any paper products will be used for future breakfasts.

- **SUNDAY BREAKFAST:** One new member was recruited at the ministry fair to help at the Sunday breakfast. The February breakfast was cancelled due to the blizzard. This Sunday, March 15, there will be breakfast in Msgr. Reinbold Hall after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. Future breakfast dates are scheduled as follows:
  - April 19 at Barnegat
  - May 17 at the Pines
  - June 21 at the Pines
  - August 16 at the Pines
  - September 20 at the Pines
- **OUR LADY OF FATIMA HOME VISITATION STATUE:** Due to weather, things have been slow in terms of adding new folks for visitation of the statue. In the interim, those who have already received the statue are being rescheduled. This ministry will soon be calling new parishioners and inviting them to receive the statue. At the Ministry Fair, there were three new sign-ups to receive Our Lady.
- **LITURGY COMMITTEE:** Msgr. reported that the Deacon podcasts went well and can be viewed in the upper right-hand corner of the website—click on You Tube. Msgr. Ken will look into upkeep of the nails in the kneelers. Mary Anne will try to identify specifically what needs repairs in the pews.
- **PATH MINISTRY:** Mike gave an update on the PATH Ministry, as follows:
  - Thanks to the Family Ministry for their recent event where food was provided for PATH clients.
  - Code blue is running efficiently. One man is going through detox because of help given by the PATH ministry. This shows what can be done when people have a place to go. There is a need to keep a soft heart.
  - There will be a hard closure of Code Blue on April 1.
  - PATH is working towards 501 (c)(3) incorporation. By-laws have been written, Articles of Incorporation are complete, and the next step is the 1023.
  - The pancake breakfast is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. this Saturday (3/14). There will be a “poverty simulation” in the spring and a summer revival. And special supplies will be distributed (bug spray etc.) to help clients over the summer.
- **MIRACLE MONDAYS:** Michelle reported on Miracle Mondays. Miracle Mondays was snowed out in February. In March, Miracle Mondays will be cancelled because the last

Monday of the month is the date of the Chrism Mass in Freehold at the co-cathedral, St. Robert Bellarmine. Miracle Mondays will resume in April.

- **HOLY FACE MINISTRY:** Christine reported on the Holy Face Ministry.
  - On the feast of the Holy Face a consecration to the Holy Face was recited.
  - The Holy Face Ministry had a table at the ministry fair.
  - Christine has signed up as an administrator on Flocknote. This ministry hopes to start using emails through Flocknote soon.
  - Christine will add the Holy Face Ministry to the Parish website.
  - The next meeting of the Holy Face will be held at the Pines on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **ENOUGH! MINISTRY:** Sandra reported on the Enough! Ministry. Enough! had a table at the Ministry Fair. They are preparing for Stafford's Founder's Day and Barnegat Pirate's Day where they will be having a table. The Enough! Ministry will likely be focusing more on family and friends of the addicted rather than the actual person experiencing addiction. They hope to bring an interesting speaker from Al Anon to the parish.
  
- **KNIGHTS:** Ed reported for the Knights of Columbus as follows:
  - **SEVEN SORROWS:** The night of the Seven Sorrows went well. Ed reminded us that the Seven Sorrows presentation was originally begun by John Pescatore. After he passed away, the last sword that is used in this ceremony is his sword for the Seven Sorrows.
  - **FISH FRY:** Ed encouraged all Parish Council members to please attend. At the Fish Fry they are collecting money for PATH and for St. Michael the Archangel Pregnancy Help Center. They also have Friday Fish Fry takeout available. Come and support the Knights!
  - **PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST:** The Knights are also planning a pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday.
  - **BABY BOTTLE COLLECTION:** The Knights will have a baby bottle collection which begins on Mother's Day and ends on Father's Day. If you don't have a bottle, money can be put in the collection box. The Knights will be giving some of the donated funds to St. Michael the Archangel Pregnancy Help Center.
  
- **BEREAVEMENT MASS:** Tom read a note from Felicia indicating that a bereavement Mass (which had to be rescheduled twice due to snow) was recently held for victims of suicide on March 2, 2026. Thanks were expressed to Felicia by the Council for organizing.
  
- **WELCOME CENTERS:** Alicia provided an update on the Welcome Centers. She addressed concerns with the Welcome Centers, and a discussion followed. Concerns are

that there is still clutter at the center, folks put their material right on top of the material of others. It was agreed that guidelines are needed with a clear policy. This should be an agenda topic for the next meeting.

Tom and Dominick will draft guidelines for the welcome center for comments by Alicia and members of the Council. Msgr. expressed a positive viewpoint that people know about the Welcome Centers and go there for information.

- **WHO CAN WE HELP:** The March collection for *Who Can We Help* is going well. They have already surpassed the amount collected in February.
- **PARISH MINISTRY FAIR RECAP:** Dominic reported on the Ministry Fair. The Ministry Fair went well. Approximately 250 people participated, with 55-60 different ministries represented. Tom sent out a request for feedback through Flocknote to ministry leaders. There was some disappointment that some ministries, particularly large ministries, were not in attendance. Msgr. stressed the importance of being part of the Ministry Fair even if a particular ministry is not actively seeking help.
- **NAILING OF THE CROSS:** Gary reported on the Nailing of the Cross. This event went well. Thanks were expressed by the Council to Gary and Fran for planning and running this event.

**REVIEW OF UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS CALENDAR:** Time was given during the meeting to privately review the calendar, with no additional comments made or changes provided.

- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** The Knights of Columbus are working on getting a Marine band to come to the parish to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation this summer.
- **WELCOME WAGON:** Tom reported on the Welcome Wagon. Thanks to Dan for developing the creative ad to invite new members of the community to the parish. The first printing will be April 1. Approximately 1,500 people are expected to move into the area (Barnegat/Waretown/Manahawkin) in the upcoming year. The program will supply the parish with names and addresses so that we can contact them by mail. The cost is \$2,600. This effort will be monitored to see if it bears fruit.
- **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** Tom reported on Divine Mercy Sunday. Deacon Greg will speak at the service. The service will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the Pines.
- **PARISH MISSION:** Santiago Fernando will be hosting a three-day parish mission. The first night will be in English (3/22). The second night will be in Spanish (3/23) and the third night will be a combination of English and Spanish (3/24).

### **TOPICS FOR NEXT MONTH:**

- Welcome Center Guidelines
- Results of Parish Mission
- Welcome Wagon Status

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Msgr. will research Holy Innocence as it relates to beginning a new program for special needs adults.
- Msgr. Ken will look into upkeep of the kneelers where the nails are missing or not fully nailed in or the bumpers are missing.
- Tom will develop a proposed flocknote message to identify those interested in starting a program for special needs adults and send this proposed message to Lisa, Phoebe and the Council for comments.
- Tom and Dominick will draft guidelines for the welcome center, and send to Alicia and members of the Council for comments.

### **PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:**

- The repose of the souls of all who died in the Bayville shooting, especially Al Russell and all those who are grieving.
- Seminarian Andrew who is going through health issues.
- Jim's intention for Kylie—a 17-year-old senior in intensive care at Jersey Shore Hospital with encephalitis
- Laura recovering from cancer
- Christina's friend Susan whose husband died recently of a heart attack—for the repose of his soul and for peace and consolation for the family
- Those in the military and on ships, especially Connor
- Healing of Christine's father Bill
- Fallen heroes who have died in the Middle East
- Our country
- St. Michael the Archangel Pregnancy Help Center
- Lois Roberts
- Inez Casein who has early onset Alzheimer
- Thanksgiving for healing of Michelle's mother which Michelle believes was miraculous.

**MEETING CLOSED:** The meeting closed in prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Moresco  
Recording Secretary

**ATT. 1: UPCOMING PARISH ACITIVITES AND EVENTS:**

|                                  |  |              |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| March 20,<br>Fri.                | Knights of Columbus<br>Fish Fry; \$20 Adults;<br>\$8 children                    | 4:30<br>p.m. | Pines:<br>Parish<br>Center                                 |
| March 21,<br>Saturday            | Candy Bar<br>Bingo;<br>Sponsored by<br>the Family<br>Ministry                    |              | Pines,<br>Parish<br>Center                                 |
| March 22,<br>23, 24 (S,<br>M, T) | Parish Lenten<br>Retreat<br>Sun. (Eng.)<br>Mon (Span.)<br>Tues (Span. &<br>Eng.) | 7:00<br>p.m. | Pines;<br>Church   |
| Fri., March<br>27                | Knights of<br>Columbus<br>Fish Fry; \$20<br>Adults; \$8<br>children              | 4:30<br>p.m. | Pines:<br>Parish<br>Center                                 |
| Mon.,<br>March 30                | Chrism Mass  | 7:30<br>p.m. | Co-<br>Cathedral,<br>St. Robert<br>Bellarmine,<br>Freehold |
| Fri.,<br>April 3                 | Good Friday  |              |  |
| Sun.,<br>April 12                | Divine Mercy<br>Sunday<br>Service  | Time TBD     | Pines:<br>Church   |

|  |                                  |                                       |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sun.,<br>April 19                        | Breakfast                        | After 8 and<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Masses   | Barnegat  |
| Tuesday,<br>April 21                     | Holy Face<br>Devotion            | 7:00 p.m.                             | Barnegat<br>(venue<br>change for<br>this month) |
| Mon.,<br>April 27                        | Miracle<br>Mondays               | 4:00 p.m. to<br>7:00 p.m.             | Barnegat<br>Church                              |
| <b>LOOKING<br/>AHEAD:</b>                |                                  |                                       |   |
| Wed., May<br>6 to June 10                | Season of<br>Hope<br>Bereavement |                                       | Barnegat<br>MR Hall                             |
| Sun., May<br>17                          | Breakfast<br>social              | After 7:30<br>and 9:00 a.m.<br>Masses | Pines Parish Center                             |
| Tuesday,<br>May 19                       | Holy Face<br>Devotion            | 7:00 p.m.                             | Pines: in church                                |
| Tuesday,<br>June 16                      | Holy Face<br>Devotion            | 7:00 p.m.                             | Pines church                                    |
| Sunday,<br>June 21                       | Breakfast<br>social              | After 7:30<br>and 9:00 a.m.<br>Masses | Pines Parish Center                             |
| Sat., July<br>11 and<br>Sun., July<br>12 | Light of the<br>World Retreat    |                                       | Pines<br>Parish<br>Center and<br>Church         |

|                                    |                    |  |       |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------|
| Tues., July 21 to<br>Sat., July 26 | Parish<br>Carnival |  | Pines |
| Sun, Aug 16                        | Breakfast social   | After 7:30<br>and 9:00<br>a.m. Masses    | Pines |
| Sun., Sept. 20                     | Breakfast social   | After 7:30<br>and 9:00<br>a.m.<br>Masses | Pines |
|                                    |                    |  |       |

*July 21-26, 2026*