**DRAFT** Saint Bridget Parish Council Minutes  
**Wednesday; October 16, 2024**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Father Ken Shuping PRESENT  Rev. Seth Seaman PRESENT  Bruce Slough, Chairperson PRESENT  Allie Strollo, Secretary PRESENT  Pat Accardo PRESENT  Julia Williams PRESENT  Mike Wilder ABSENT | Frank Devenoge PRESENT  Tom Giannasi ABSENT  Kristine Keeney PRESENT  Mack Rich PRESENT  John Rogers PRESENT  Tara Chiudian PRESENT |

# Opening

* 6:00PM – Meeting was called to order by Bruce Slough
* Opening prayer, Father Ken

# Approval of Minutes

* 6:02 PM Meeting minutes from September 2024 meeting were approved by the council

# Liaison Reports

## Liturgy – Mack Rich

* 6 new Eucharistic ministers trained last week
* Sacramental wine is being looked into with distributors

## Christian Formation-Kristine Keeney

* Nursery Updates
  + Saint Gabriel had it prior to Covid but never started it back up. They had a paid staff member who also cleaned toys; deep cleaned every two months
  + Previously at Saint Bridget it used to be open 9AM and 11AM with paid staff. Two paid staff were always present. The volunteer strategy didn’t work out well.
  + Currently the room is open and available for use, but parents must stay with their child(ren). When the new DRE is hired this will fall under him/her.
* Mass on the Mountain was a great trip
* Saint Michael's is pleased to host Dove award-nominated Catholic musician and worship leader, Sarah Kroger, her husband, and band for a two-night mission concert on Sunday and Monday, October 27th and 28th from 7:00-8:30pm at St. Michael in Glen Allen.
* Michael has accepted a new position with the Diocese Office; position is posted. Michael has found others with a background to step in and help during the transition

## Social Ministry- Julia Williams

* There was a second collection last weekend and update from our Haiti representative John Dyer. He will be sharing that the Diocesan focus for Haiti twinning will be establishing covenants and developing a 5 year plan to our twins becoming self-sufficient. This is a drastic change from the previous structure of continued funding and needs. John will be available after masses to speak with folks and the group is actively looking for new volunteers to help with this new focus. (Week of 10/13)
* Human Concerns grant- the committee reviewed the applications received from 11 organizations. 10 were chosen to be funded and outlined support is listed below. All of the applications were compelling and offer opportunity for Saint Bridget parish to get more involved. Each month, one of the awardees will be spotlighted in the Bulletin with information about the work they are doing and how to get involved ( a month to month version on their individual impact with data from their applications). By sharing the information about their work, we hope that parishioners will learn more about the impact these groups make and choose to support Human Concerns collections more fully in the future. The total amount awarded is $59,610.00. All organizations have been notified and have responded they are very grateful for the support. The one organization not awarded was Haiti ministry- as the grant outlines the needs to be met for the local community. They were also notified.
* Saint Francis Home $1610.00
* Habitat for Humanity $5,000.00
* Cross Over Ministry $8,000.00
* Liberation Veterans Services $5,000.00
* Mary's Choice $8,000.00
* CCC- Seton Home $8,000.00
* Society of St. Vincent DePaul $8,000.00
* Housing Families First $8,000.00
* Salvation Army $7,000.00
* VA Society for Human Life $2,000.00
* We will be collecting items this month for two different groups, Halloween candy in partnership with our youth programs for Blackwell Elementary and Thanksgiving food for the Dibert Food pantry- Commonwealth Catholic Charities. The Knights have offered to transport their items and the Thanksgiving food collected on Saturday October 26 and we are grateful to them.
* Christmas Sharing- we are currently accepting applications from 3 local elementary schools through their Communities in Schools liaisons, Mary’s Choice and Saint Vincent DePaul as well as referrals that come through the church. The information will be compiled and available for parish families to select how they can help in early November. Saint Bridget is also scheduled to provide the Tuesday meal for Saint Peter’s Door ministry for Christmas Eve, December 24th. We are working to make this a special occurrence with their chairperson and will have an update shortly.
* Last full week of 40 days for Life. There will be a Vigil at Planned Parenthood on 10/21 at 9am.
* Over $10,000 was collected during second collection on 10/13/24 for far South West parishes

## Community Life and Evangelization – John Rogers

* Working to refresh website (groups, descriptions, needs, point of contact, etc) and the next step will be communicating that information.
* Goal is ease, increase in outreach, and identifying “Champions”
* Discussed:

- figuring out where the "Welcome" Google Form goes and connecting it back to the Welcome Committee

- getting the Welcome Committee announced in the 9am Mass announcements on days where they are present

# Pastor Report

## Fr Ken

* Synod on Synodality is being planned by the Diocese for 2025
* October 2025-Catholic Fest in Richmond being planned by the Diocese
  + Details to come

## Fr Seth

* Still in the process of preparing the “Evangelical Catholic” program for the parish. It will begin in the beginning of November

# Principal Report

* Capital Campaign Update
  + Initial meeting held with architect about Summer 2025 Elementary bathroom updates
  + Protective film being applied Monday, Sept. 23
  + Video surveillance-waiting on second bid before proceeding on decision
* Family Fest-Saturday, September 28
* Great feedback from families about parish picnic
* Kicking off Annual Appeal/IGiveCatholic, PTO Bulldogathon: communication going out about transparency of where funds go

# Old Business

* Disciple maker Index survey
  + Parish Survey closes tomorrow
  + Approximately 400 surveys were completed
  + Zoom meetings will take place to discuss results and develop action plans
* Stew & Brew
  + Friday, Oct 18, 2024, 5:30PM
* 75th Anniversary Activities
  + T-shirts will be sold at Stew and Brew
  + Nov 3 at 4PM Prayer Service for parishioners who have passed over last 75 years
    - Parishioners can bring a photo to set out if they would like
    - Music beforehand
  + Dec. 7 Santa Breakfast (Activity will be creating a Saint Bridget cross)
  + January Special Organ Concert (date and time will be shared)
  + January 23 Saints and Sinners at lunch
  + Feb 1-Anniversary closes on Feast of Saint Bridget; Evening mass followed by dinner

# New Business

* Should we look into a way to have announcements/signage out front of church

# Parishioner Feedback: Suggestion Box

* None
* There is an electronic form on the parish website. We need to look into who receives those responses.

# Adjournment

* Closing Prayer Father Seth
* Meeting adjourned 7:13 PM
* Next meeting date-Nov . 20