



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 1 of 11

**Date:** March 5, 2024

**Location:** Meeting room - St. Bernard's Church

The meeting of the St. Jeanne Jugan Parish Council was called to order by President, Josh Sullivan, at 7:00 p.m.

**Member Attendance: (X – present, EX – Excused, G – guest)**

<u>X</u> Fr. John Golas	<u>   </u> Dcn. James Marco	<u>X</u> Dcn. Vince Motto	<u>X</u> Dcn. Paul Robert
<u>X</u> Josh Sullivan	<u>X*</u> Vicki Mitchell	<u>X</u> Joe Kubinski	<u>X</u> Sue Cotter
<u>   </u> Lucille DiBella	<u>   </u> Richard Dooley	<u>   </u> Suzanne Douglas	<u>   </u> Donna Doyker
<u>X</u> Kristen Fitzsimons	<u>   </u> BJ Gomeau	<u>EX</u> Dave Goyette	<u>   </u> Donna Honan
<u>X</u> Pat Keck	<u>   </u> Andrea Krajewski	<u>   </u> Walter Kruzel	<u>X</u> Ray Mercik
<u>X</u> Don Mongeau	<u>   </u> Charlene Mongillo	<u>EX</u> Henrietta Montagna	<u>   </u> Sophia Oppenheimer
<u>X</u> Darlene Saucier	<u>X</u> Donna Jones Searle	<u>X</u> Faith Scavetta	<u>X</u> Marianne Tittarelli
<u>X</u> Ralph Williams	<u>   </u> MaryAnn Zaleski	<u>   </u> Steve Mitchell	<u>   </u> Dave Villanueva
<u>X</u> Kerri Work	<u>X*</u> Marie Pyznar	<u>X</u> Ryan LaRoche	<u>   </u> Michael Smyth
<u>G**</u> Susan Carllo	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>

\*attended by phone

\*\* Susan Carllo in for Dave Goyette

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Golas led group in opening prayer John Ch 3:13-21, “focus on Jesus as the light as we get closer to Easter.” Contemplation: ” keep in mind where you see the light in this world and in your life, the light of God's truth, the light of goodness that God gives to us.”

**Agenda Items:**

**Approval of minutes from the Jan 23, 2024 meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> K Fitzsimons– 2<sup>nd</sup> K Work Approved

**Committee Reports (S – as submitted by committee)**

**Facilities (No chair): NA**



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 2 of 11

### **Legion of Mary (Jackie Proto) S:**

This report of the actions of Legion of Mary (Our Lady of the Holy Family Praesidium) covers the period since the January 2024 report. Our Praesidium Officers report monthly in person to the Hartford Comitium of the Legion of Mary. The Legion of Mary meets weekly on Tuesdays @2pm at Holy Family Church. We have 12 Active Members and 21 verified Auxiliary Members, each of which have different responsibilities. Our Spiritual Director is Reverend John Golas. Our meetings are held on Tuesday at 2pm at Holy Family Church, but inclement weather prevented our February 13th meeting.

- The works of leading the Rosary or the Tesserat prayers and/or the Divine Mercy Chaplet continued in eight of the nine retirement or assisted living homes locally (one not available due to illness at site). Three Eucharistic Ministers continued to visit people assigned to them, including one parish member who requested the Eucharist while recovering from an earlier hospitalization.
- The Acies event (specific to all Legionary and Auxiliary members of the Hartford Comitium of the Legion of Mary) will be held *beyond the Easter and Divine Mercy Sundays*, on Sunday afternoon, April 14, 2024 starting at 2pm at Holy Family Church. Father Golas will lead the benediction. The formal event will be followed by fellowship and refreshments in Fr Kerwan Hall. This yearly event is a renewal of our consecration to Mary in the Legion of Mary.
- Plans for two other works are still on hold at this time: the formation of a Junior Praesidium , and a Parish outreach via informational pamphlets to engage members in becoming Legionaries of Mary.
- Two members of the Legion of Mary have accepted the invitation by Pat Keck to participate as two of the many presenters in the upcoming Faith Formation's *Women's Day of Reflection, on Saturday, May 18th*. Our presentation will focus on "The Many Faces of Mary", as our Legion handbook saturates our spirituality with Mary's key role in our devotions and in our works extended out to the people of the Body of Christ in need.

*Submitted by Jacqueline Proto March 11, 2024*

### **Prayer Shawls/Bears (Debbie Reith):**

### **Senior Lunch (Claire Bronson):**

### **Rosary Guild (chairperson TBA):**

### **Pro Life Committee (Donna Doyker) S:**

P.A.L. had a very successful fundraiser with the baby bottle drive last Oct.



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 3 of 11

We sent checks to St Joseph's Home for \$1000, Birthright for \$500, and Carolyn's Place for \$500. We also ordered 4 permanent outdoor pro-life signs to be placed in front of all 4 of St Jeanne Jugan churches this spring.

P.A.L has secured a luxury bus to pick up and drop off all people wanting to join CT March for Life in Hartford on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family parking lot. Pick up time is 11:00 AM and drop off time is 3:00 PM. The cost is only \$15 and tickets can be purchased online at [rally.co/bookings](http://rally.co/bookings). Or a call to any member to order for you and you can reimburse them afterward. The link is on the Parish website and also in the bulletin. The march is from the Capital lawn and just around Bushnell Park. There are Capital police everywhere making it feel very safe and the speakers are wonderful! Please consider joining us as the State is trying to erase even the small restrictions that CT has on the murderous action of an abortion.

P.A.L also has decided to present tiny baby feet pins to all mothers at the Mother's Day Masses

Respectfully submitted  
Donna Doyker

### **Religious Education (Pat Keck) S:**

- Grades K-5 continues to come to class on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. All students have taken the Grade assessment and 98% of all students did very well.
- Grades 3-4-5 will have a penitential service on Saturday, March 9 at Holy Family Church so each student will have the opportunity to go to confession. Grades K-2 will have an Easter movie and do a craft for Easter.
- Grade 2 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Church. St. Bernard School joined the Religious Education program and approximately 42 students made their sacrament together.
- We have a Parent Meeting for the Sacrament of Communion on Saturday, March 16 where parents can have their questions answered and we promote the practice of going to church each week. Communion is Saturday, May 4 at 11 a.m.
- Grades 6/7/8 had their assessment. Most students did well. It is a last effort to see what the students know before entering the Confirmation program. Students will have their penitential service on Thursday, March 21 at St. Martha Church instead of class for the evening.
- Grades K-8 will have a chance to visit all the churches on Good Friday. We are calling it: Visitation to the Churches of St. Jeanne Jugan – Looking for Jesus. Students will have an opportunity to go to the churches and receive a piece of a puzzle that they can put together after visiting the churches. They are also asked to visit the empty tabernacle and



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 4 of 11

say a prayer. Each piece of the puzzle will be a part of a picture of the Risen Christ. They will put it together and bring them back to class for a chance to win a prize.

- Grade 9 continues to come to St. Bernard Church every other Sunday for Confirmation Class. During Father Golas's absence we had Father Federico and Father Maldonado come and speak with the students. They also had a presentation on the Crucifixion of Christ. Good conversation with the students afterwards. Students will be preparing for the live Stations of the Cross. Live Stations will be Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday 7 p.m. at St. Bernard Church.
- The Confirmation students will be participating in Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Martha Church at 3 p.m., as well as serve parishioners a dinner in the church hall afterwards.
- The Confirmation class will also be doing a class project of sprucing up and cleaning the Mary Garden at St. Martha Church.
- Our RCIA class has prepared two students for the sacraments. They will receive them at the Easter Vigil at St. Bernard Church.
- VBS will be June 24-28. Registration begins on Saturday, April 20, along with registration for the next year for Religious Education. Early registration has worked very well for our families and for our planning for volunteers and teachers.
- Adult Faith Formation continues to have a liturgy group at Holy Family and St. Bernard. The Parish Mission will be the week of March 18 in the morning and in the evening at St. Bernard Church. Brother Michael Moran, C. P. comes from the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. Theme: On the Road: Walking through the Gospels and through Life.
- We will be having a Women's Day of Reflection in May. Our theme is "Come to Mary's Heart" at the Faith Formation Center at St. Martha Church on Saturday, May 18. Registration will begin in early April.
- There will be a Breakfast with Easter Bunny with an Egg Hunt following the 10:30 a.m. mass at St. Bernard on 3-17-24. Confirmation students will be there to assist with the breakfast and the easter egg hunt. All proceeds will go to the Steubenville East trip. Special appearance by the Easter Bunny.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pat Keck**

Director Religious Education and Faith Formation



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 5 of 11

### **St. Bernard Schools (Charlene Mongillo) S:**

- SBS enrollment = 178
- LA enrollment = 60

Both schools had a winter open house for the 2024-2025 school year on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> (we had a good showing at both schools).

- Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> – SBS students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation at HF
- Winter Break was Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Our choir sang at the Thunderbirds game on February 23<sup>rd</sup> (they did a great job). Over 300 people from our schools attended the game!
- VIP dance was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Registration for the 2023-2024 school year began on March 1<sup>st</sup> and applications are coming in daily.
- SBS new fundraiser is Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Comedy Show in Agawam, MA over 200 tickets sold!
- Holy Thursday = ½ day and No School Good Friday
- Spring break will be April 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.
- SBS & LA will be sponsoring Pick A Pop Dress down days to help with the upcoming Church Carnival.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> = Sacrament of Holy Communion at 11:00am at HF.
- News from the Town of Enfield – Mr. Chris Drezek was appointed Superintendent in Old Saybrook Mr. Andrew Longy, the current assistant Superintendent, was appointed the new EPS effective May 21<sup>st</sup>.

An EPS calendar has not been released for next year so we cannot work on our calendar for next year at this time.

Charlene Mongillo

### **St. Vincent dePaul – Holy Family (Dave Goyette) S:**

The STVDP conference of Holy Family continues to meet in person on the first Friday of each month after the 9am mass. We serve over 30 families with food cards and various bills to help sustain their families. We also get direct calls from the social worker at the Enfield police department and the Department of Social Services to help those in distress.

We will be holding a closet restocking drive the weekend of April 27-28 beginning with a bulletin insert the weekend of April 20-21.

David Goyette, president



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 6 of 11

### **St. Vincent dePaul – St. Bernard (BJ Gomeau) S:**

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting virtual: 8 members in attendance.

Jan 2024, we served 4 clients:

- 1.) Helped a woman with 100 gallons of oil.
- 2.) Helped an individual with their electric bill.
- 3.) Helped a woman with groceries from the food pantry and provided gift cards to Enfield Produce and Stop N Shop.
- 4.) Helped a gentleman with rent.

### **New Business:**

- The committee agreed to use (3) \$50 Costco Gift Cards donated at Christmas to replenish our SVDP pantry.
- The Easter gift cards will be allocated the same as we have done for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- An announcement will be going out in the coming weeks asking for gift card donations for our Easter Collection.

### **Old Business:**

- Held a January “Get together” at Wood N Tap in Enfield.
- Our SVDP President, Ed Mickiewicz attended the Hartford Council Zoom Meeting on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Next meeting is Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>. I will report on this at our next Parish Council meeting.

### **Women’s Guild (Faith Scavetta & MaryAnn Zaleski) S:**

The February meeting was a discussion featuring “Reflections on Art as a Doorway to Contemplative Prayer” presented by David Pluta. We tried the process of art-making to “quiet” our left brain and enhance our ability for focus, stillness, and awareness. We closed with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Twenty-three members attended.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> for the Spring Bazaar. Carol Frappier is coordinating the event. As of our meeting only four vendor spots remained.

St. Jeanne Jugan Scholarships have been announced in the bulletin. They are available at all SJJ Parish Offices and downloadable via the parish website beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for submission is Friday, April 5, 2024, at noon.

Faith Scavetta and MaryAnn Zaleski

Copresidents of the SJJ Women’s Guild

### **Worship & Parish Life (Sue Cotter) S:**

The Worship & Parish Life Committees are preparing for Holy Week and the Easter Season.



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 7 of 11

- The Triduum Schedule is as follows: the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday will be held at Holy Family Church at 7:00 p.m.; the reading of our Lord's Passion will take place at St. Patrick's Church at 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday; The Easter Vigil Mass will be held at St. Bernard Church on Holy Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Easter Sunday masses will follow the regular Sunday mass schedule.
- Carolyn Dague, who is head of Adult Faith Formation, prepared a schedule of all of the Lenten events and Services that are taking place throughout the Parish. Copies of this schedule are available at all 4 churches in SJJ Parish, and all parishioners have been encouraged to pick up a copy of the schedule.
- The Worship & Parish Life Group is currently discussing a necessary change to the Sunday Mass schedule. A letter from Archbishops Blair and Coyne has directed Parishes within the Archdiocese to scale back their mass schedules based on the attendance numbers submitted for each mass from last year's October count. Our goal, as expressed by Fr. Golas, is to have only 2 masses scheduled each weekend at each church. Currently, St. Patrick Church and Holy Family Church each have 3 masses scheduled on the weekend, including vigil mass and 2 Sunday masses. Therefore, one mass will be eliminated at each of these churches. St. Martha's Church currently has 3 masses scheduled on the weekend; however, one mass is celebrated in English, one mass is celebrated in Spanish, and one mass is celebrated in the Traditional Latin Rite. As each of these masses serves a specific parishioner population at St. Martha, no masses will be eliminated. Back in July 2022, the mass schedule at St. Bernard Church was reduced from three masses to two, therefore, no further reduction will be made at St. Bernard. The reduction in the mass schedule will impact all liturgical ministries, especially the music ministries.

### **Youth Ministry (Kristen Fitzsimons) S:**

Youth Ministry continues to meet twice a month. In February, we participated in the Teen Mass, Stations of the Cross, and began plans for Vacation Bible School in June. We are working with the Confirmation program on the performance of Living Stations of the Cross.

Sign-ups for students interested in Steubenville East occurred in February. Our initial deadline to attend the conference has passed, but we will continue to take teens on a case-by-case basis (as long as chaperone ratios and hotel room reservations allow). We currently have 17 teens attending with four chaperones. This is a big increase from last year when we had 6 teens attend. We have begun fundraising. We have two fundraisers in March, a pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny after the 10:30 Mass on 3/17 and selling palm crosses for \$10 3/16-17 and 3/23-24. We have 200 palm crosses available for sale. Future fundraisers include a candy bar sale and a raffle during the meal on Divine Mercy Sunday.

### **By-Laws Committee (Vicki Mitchell) S:**



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 8 of 11

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Attached are the updated By-laws which were presented at the January meeting, and which include the changes that were discussed at that meeting. Those changes basically provide for 2 high school aged Parishioners to be Ex-officio members of the Council (pg. 2,) and for a 24-hour notice of a change from an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting in the event of inclement weather (pg. 6.)

We will be voting to approve these by-laws on Tuesday night.

Thank you, The By-law Committee

### **Old Business:**

#### 1. Sale and decommissioning of St. Adalberts church.

- Dcn. Paul Robert reported that a date is to be set for a walk through a facility so that parishioners can find items they are interested in for relocating to other churches for acquiring themselves as memorabilia, and the rest will go with the sale.
- Fr. Golas reported that word from Chris Kelly is the proposed sale went to the Presbyteral Council and was approved. Next is the final process to relegate the Church to profane but not sordid use, which is in progress.
- Fr. John Gwozdz is willing to celebrate the closing mass. He's a native son and said his first mass there.

#### 2. St. Martha's parking lot and St. Adalberts cemetery

- St. Adalberts is ready to go for 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April with contract signed. Quoted price has been held. With Rafferty there is permission to go ahead with a small cost increase expected.
- St. Martha's parking lot has enough pavement to grind and use as a base. Work will include all the driveways to Washington and to Brainard. Lot size will be reduced to about 100 cars capacity, and grass will be planted on remainder of former lot.
- Steve Mitchell reports that Fire Marshal said to add pavement markings showing a no parking zone fire lane. He will also get in touch with Rafferty to work out the schedule.
- Fr. Golas told Steve Mitchell to proceed as the finance council is aware and permits are expected.





## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 9 of 11

### New Business:

#### **1. Acceptance of By-Laws**

Motion to approve the newly revised By-Laws was made by Kristen, and second from Kerri. Josh Sullivan called for a vote, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote to accept. Quorum requirement was met.

#### **2. St. Jeanne Jugan Council Elections**

- Discussion was had regarding qualification to be on nominating committee. Kristen reminded council that only members who are not running for council are allowed to serve on nominating committee.
- Vicki provided a refresher on duties of the nominating committee which include: putting together a form for the nominations; calling nominees to see if they're willing to run; getting biographies from nominees; counting ballot results and giving results to Fr. Golas.
- Nominees will be sought from St. Patricks and St. Marthas. Fr. Golas will appoint parishioners to help the committee as needed.
- Nominating committee to be headed by Ralph Williams, with help from Marie Pyznar, phone support from Kristen Fitzsimons, and other council members who may step forward.

#### **3. Carnival**

- Carnival is scheduled for May 30, 31 and June 1.
- In order to get more volunteer participation, Sue Cotter echoed a suggestion that there be a point person familiar to parishioners in each church that would look for volunteers.
- An email contact list was brought up as a way to broadcast the call for volunteers vs relying on church bulletins or announcements.
- Discussion on reluctance to volunteer based on not knowing what to expect or being unfamiliar with other volunteers.

#### **4. Worship and Parish Life (W&PL) – Revised Mass Schedules**

- A letter was sent from Archbishop Blair to the archdiocese about diminishing attendance at masses, and a multiplication of masses that are less than half a church's capacity. A directive was given to reduce the number of masses, which for St. Jeanne Jugan parish amounts to 2 masses per church except for 3 at St. Martha's due to the Spanish and Latin masses.



## ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

Pg. 10 of 11

- The reality of a decreasing number of priests in the archdiocese with many of them over the age of 75 adds to the problem of how many masses can be offered.
- St. Bernards mass schedule was reduced in July of 2022 and meets the goal of 2 masses.
- Masses at Holy Family and St. Patrick's need to be cut back to meet the 2 mass limit.
- Archdiocese sent attendance figures with the letter from a count made in October 2023. For Holy Family, mass attendance high to low: Sat vigil, Sun 9 am, Sun 11:30. For St. Pat' high to low: Sat vigil, Sun 10 am, Sun 8 am.
- W&PL met and discussed options and considered suggestions. The decision at this time is eliminate the 11:30 AM mass at Holy Family, the 8:00 AM mass at Saint Patrick's.
- Music ministries that are affected will be meeting with Parish life to discuss options.
- There were various points made and discussion regarding going beyond the required cuts issued by the directive, and to look strategically at the demographics and logistics of the churches in SJJ and perform a polling to better know the preferences of the parishioners, and to create a plan that makes for a more connected parish. Fr. Golas countered that with the uncertainties being faced in the diocese - from new directions coming from Archbishop Coyne to the growing priest shortage, that it might be difficult to make large changes at this time as some events may be beyond our control. Nevertheless, he suggested a subcommittee of W&PL could be formed to perform the sizable task of coming up with options that could be considered.
- The majority of the council's time was taken up on this subject due to significant points being raised by members.

### 5. Facilities Coordinator Replacement

- Jim Daigle resigned as of last Thursday, the 29th of February. We're in the process of hiring a new person. Ryan is our facilities manager for the parish council and will have input on a replacement.

### **Report: Fr. Golas**

#### 1. Archbishops Annual Appeal.

- Last year the appeal made 91% of goal. The goal for SJJ this year is \$245,000. Goal is important to SJJ, because money comes back to town for the food shelf, the Enfield safe Harbor warming center, and Loaves and Fishes.



## **ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES**

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

**Pg. 11 of 11**

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### **2. Vocations training**

- Kristen Fitzsimons attended a vocations summit on February 17, 2024. The summit laid out how to accomplish the objective of bringing vocations to the parish in a way that is incorporated into everything that it does. There is a plan to organize a committee, establish action plans, and make sure all ministries and groups in the parish are focused on incorporating the call for vocations. Vocations are not just the priesthood, but for all aspects of life where one can answer God's call.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tue May 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at:**

       **Fr. Kerwan Hall of Holy Family Church**

  **X**   **Fr. Fitzmaurice Hall of St. Bernard's Church**

**Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Golas**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Josh Sullivan, and seconded.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Kubinski

Secretary