

Saint Raphael Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

November 27, 2023, 7:00 PM St. Gabriel's Hall Church

In attendance:

Absent:

Opening: Frank L. delivered the opening prayer.

Father John's Comments:

Archbishop Coyne to visit Tuesday November 28

Financial audit on Wednesday November 29

Standing Committee Reports:

Saint Raphael Parish Prayer and Worship Committee Report from Ann Eden:

Advent booklets are available at all church entrances.

Human Concerns Committee

No report. Next meeting scheduled for December 4th at 7 PM at St. Gabriel's Hall.

Parish Life – Cathy Coda

November Coffee And to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project brought in \$200 from St. Ann's and \$175 from St. Gabriel's. All was sent to the organization.

There will be no Social Gathering Team meeting in December.

Coffee And dates are December 9/10.

Social Gathering - Rose Marie Marmolejo rmarmolejo@snet.net

Our pre-Advent luncheon was held on November 19, 2023 in St. Raphael's parish at St. Gabriel Hall. This luncheon which I have been promoting for over 20 years has been a total success. The dual purpose is bringing the parish together and use this time as a Charitable event collecting warm winter clothing for the needy in our community and restock shelves for the food pantry.

We collected over 5 boxes of new winter items and we filled two grocery carts of nonperishables for the food pantry. Michele Croteau and Mary Fedorchak assembled and separated at the front entrance the new items, Michele separated and categorized the food items for the Food Pantry. Maria Tomasetti and Kathleen Buchanan assisted by delivering the items collected.

We had 3 soup choices, sandwiches, potato salad, chips, coffee, tea, water, juice and dessert. We filled 8 tables of parish families and friends. We were honored to have Fr. John Brinsmade and Fr. Maurice Maroney join us and give their support and prayers for which I was most pleased.

Many look forward to this event and have already asked me what I will make for the following year. We had more than enough food, and many came back for seconds. I am truly happy that this event is the success it has been for many years and thank all those in attendance and look forward to being able to bring everyone together next year with the hopes that even more will attend.

Thank you to all of you who attended and partook of this annual pre-Advent event.

Faith Formation – Maria Tomasetti

Twelve teens received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on October 29. Three adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on November 7.

Our December GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) program dates are Sunday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 12. Topic: Sacrament of Confirmation. Although most GIFT program participants are families with teens or children, adult parishioners without young people are welcome to join us.

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 at St. Gabriel Church. First Reconciliation practices have been scheduled. First Reconciliation classes are still in progress for preteens/teens and to accommodate special needs.

Our Advent/Christmas Activity Open House and Celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, anytime between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. There will be activity centers for children, teens, and adults. Location: Saint Ann Parish Center.

RCIA/OCIA classes are ongoing for our three catechumens and two candidates preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation.

If not included in the Parish Life report. Please join us on Sunday, December 17 for "Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers and The Shepherd," beginning 2:30 pm in the Saint Ann Parish Center Hall. The Messengers is the story of the birth of Jesus as told through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. The Shepherd looks at the birth of Jesus through the eyes of some local shepherds, especially a devout young shepherd with a disability. Together, the two short films will last for approximately one hour, followed by a short comment/discussion period. Everyone is invited to come see these Christmas episodes of The Chosen (free of charge). This includes adults and families with children/teens ages 12 and older. Please join us! Questions? Please call Rose Cox, 203-878-6427 or Cindy Sissick, 203-874-0746.

Open Forum:

Church signage project on hold until new mass schedule is determined.

Christmas Mass schedule:

- Sunday December 24 requires regular mass attendance at either the vigil on Saturday or at 8:00, 9:30 or 11am mass even if you plan to attend one of the Christmas Eve masses.
- Christmas Eve masses are 4pm at both St. Ann's and St. Gabriel's and 8pm at St. Ann's.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 18th at 7PM at St. Ann's Parish House