

Saint Raphael Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda
September 23, 2024 7:00PM
St. Ann's Church Office

Attendance: Absent – Maria T., Manfred M., Terri D., George S.

Opening Prayer- Cathy Coda

Acceptance of May 2024 meeting notes

Opening Prayer leaders chosen

October 28: Frank L.; November 25: Terri D.; December 16: John K.; January 27: Francis O.; February 24: Elaine B.; March 24: John A.; April 28: Joyce M.; June 2: Leo D.

Father John's Comments:

- Suzanne retired and Monica has been made a fulltime employee and will take some duties of Suzanne's accounting responsibilities
- The accountants in Meriden will remain
- Father has additional administrative responsibilities temporarily. These will be delegated away from Father as necessary.
- We have approval from the archdiocese to replace the full roofs for St. Ann's Parish center and St. Ann's Church.
- Father thanks all those who worked to make the picnic a roaring success.
- Father Hau is here for the academic year.
- Council members are very grateful for all the work done by the committee who created, printed and distributed the pamphlets for all the ministries.

New Slate of Officers:

- Wally H. has agreed to stay on as Secretary
- Rose Marie Marmolejo will be the Chair
- Frank L. has accepted Vice Chair

Standing Committee Reports

Prayer and Worship Committee Report from Ann Eden

The committee met in the Saint Ann Library at 10:00 a.m. Committee members in attendance were Cathy Coda, Rose Cox, Ann Eden, Mary Lee Frisbie, Frank Lacerenza, Joyce Marlow and Rose Marie Marmolejo. Yvonne Torsiello and Joanne Judd, who knew they would not be able to attend, had submitted their thoughts/suggestions re: the agenda items. (What a special committee we have!)

- ***Celebrate Saint Raphael:*** A Triduum of Prayer, beginning Friday, 9/27; ending Sunday, 9/29.
 - *For Friday evening* (at Saint Ann Church):
 - Friday evening program will begin at 7 o'clock. Maria Tomasetti will identify GIFT students/families to participate.
 - We will have greeters at every entrance and plan to have a paper program to hand out. Frank Lacerenza opened the discussion about the evening's program suggesting that we begin with a brief welcome/introduction, a few words about Saint Raphael, and an explanation (also brief) about what will follow.

- The committee agreed to a person on: Rosary (the Luminous mysteries) and an abridged version of the lengthy Litany of Saint Raphael and Adoration/Benediction. (Rosary/Litany to be recited during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament prior to Benediction.)
- Frank has offered to edit the litany to an abridged version. Mary Lee is available to cantor.
- Ann will reach out to Fr. John and Dcn. George about their Adoration/Benediction availability.
- *For Saturday and Sunday:* Each petition in the Prayer of the Faithful will include *Through the intercession of Saint Raphael*, followed by one of his titles, taken from the litany (*our patron, Angel of joy, guide and counselor*, e.g.).
- *At all weekend Masses:* Volunteers (GIFT students/families; committee members, willing parishioners; perhaps members of Johnny Appleseed’s family, if they are available) will hand out apples as congregation is leaving, in tribute to Saint Raphael the healer (*An apple a day keeps the doctor away.*) Bags labeled *Celebrate Saint Raphael* will be available for families, if needed. Committee ballparked a number: 600 honey crisp or cosmic crisp apples (between our 2 churches). Committee members offered to check w/local sources about availability, potential discount, etc: Cathy Coda - Jones Farm, Bishop’s Orchards (Cathy will also look for appropriate sized baskets) Rose Cox – Costco. Joyce Marlow – Big Y. Ann Eden – Stop & Shop (Post meeting note: Jo-Anne Neely will check w/Shop Rite.) Frank Lacerenza will discuss possible KofC involvement at Tinto Council’s August board meeting. Any apples left over will go to the Saint Gabriel food pantry.
- *Sunday afternoon at 3 o’clock:* a serendipitous encore presentation of the Choir’s July concert.
- **International Rosary:** A Rosary for Priests Tuesday, 10/8, 7:00 p.m. at Saint Gabriel Church. Rose has commitments from the “pray-ers,” those who will lead the decades of the Rosary in their native languages. A reception will follow in Saint Gabriel Hall.
- **Mass of Remembrance:** Sunday, November 17, 2:00 p.m., Saint Ann Church . Invitations will go out to the families of the members of Saint Raphael Parish who have died during the past year (October 2023 – September 2024). Mass will be live-streamed.
- **Advent** – begins on Sunday, December 3.
 - Booklet – Mary Lee suggested that we speak to Amy Ekeh, who might be able to suggest an Advent booklet for this year. (Post meeting note: Ann spoke w/Amy on Sunday, August 12. She will send us links to booklets we might choose.)
- The meeting closed with prayer at 11:00 a.m. The committee meets again on Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the parish library.

Social Justice/Human Concerns Committee

- **Human Concerns Committee:** The next meeting is September 30 at 7PM at St. Gabriel’s Hall. Two agenda items are:
 - Choosing top strategies/goals for the year 2024-2025
 - Planning the informational meeting for Pro-Life Ministry (Debbie from Hope Pregnancy Center is invited). The meeting to plan Pro-Life Informational meeting will be Monday Sept 30, 7PM at St. Gabriel’s Hall. All are invited.
 - Wally will send the announcement for the meeting to the Council members
- **Protect Connecticut’s Children Initiative:** Our next [MSTeams \(virtual\) meeting is October 24th at 7 PM](#)

Parish Life-Cathy Coda

Cathy reported that the Parish Picnic was an enormous success. Cathy extended sincere thanks to Maria T. and the teens, the Knights of Columbus and especially the many Coda family members who were pressed into service. Much praise was heaped onto Lasse's for their excellent food and service. Also, Elaine Bataille and crew for amazing fried dough.

The trip to the UConn game was cancelled due to low interest.

Cathy distributed the Parish Ministry Pamphlet.

Social Gathering

Parish Life Rose Marie Marmolejo

- Homefront was cancelled this year. Planning by the Homefront leadership did not give St. Raphael's team enough time to organize to attract volunteers, collect the necessary materials, and deliver quality service.
- Advent supper is scheduled for November 17th after 11 AM MASS at St. Gabriel's Hall. Participation is free asking each person to bring a food item for the food bank, a winter clothing item, or another donation.

Faith Formation-Maria Tomasetti

- Our 2024/2025 GIFT faith formation program will focus on the Nicene Creed. The September program dates are Sunday, Sept 22/24, and the October dates are October 20/22. GIFT registration is still in progress so the number of registered families will be shared in October.
- Our scheduled Sacramental program overview meetings for First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation were held in September. Confirmation program classes have started. First Reconciliation classes will begin in October.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation for our 22 Confirmation candidates is scheduled for Sunday, November 3 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, beginning at 2:00 pm.
- Three adults are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Fall 2024.
- Information re: our 2024/2025 RCIA/OCIA program will be shared in October.

Goals

Suggested goals of the Council:

- Distribute a gift of a flower on Mother's Day to all parishioner women who attend masses that day.
- Each subcommittee presents their goals to the council to avoid overlap of efforts.
- Organize streaming for St. Gabriel's Church as we have it in St. Ann's.
- Council creates a welcome packet for new parishioners.

Church Signage

- John K. will present a proposal for edited/improving the signage at St. Gabriel's at our October meeting.

Open Forum

- Father agrees to receive requests for announcements which he can make after Mass about major events. Father will decide if it meets the criteria of importance and if it's imminent.
- Family Institute of Connecticut annual banquet is Friday September 27th at 6 - 9 PM. You can purchase tickets at: Purchase Tickets at: <https://secure.etransfer.com/FIC/Banquet.cfm>

NEXT Parish Council Meeting: October 28, 2024, St. Gabriel's Hall 7PM