

Saint Raphael Parish  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – St. Ann Office  
June 2, 2025 7:00PM

Opening Prayer- Leo D.

Rose Marie M. facilitated the meeting

Attendance: Absent - Manfred M., Maria T.,

New members Susan, Melvin, and Josh were introduced

Acceptance of April 2025 meeting notes

**Father John's Comments:**

- The streaming of the masses at for St. Gabriel church is still in the planning stages.
- The handrail installations are still in the planning stages.
- Repair of the drainage at Parish Center roof at St. Ann church is in the process of being completed  
The new roof has eliminated all leaks.
- The reconciliation room is being renovated at St. Gabriel church.
- St. Gabriel Sacristy will soon enjoy a new portrait of Pope Leo.
- Our Archbishop Coyne will be celebrating 9:30 Mass at St. Ann Church on All Souls Day November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025.
- The roses given during Mother's Day were a big hit. Special thanks to John Kirkham for coordinating this at all the masses.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Prayer and Worship Committee Report from Ann Eden**

- The Easter Triduum liturgies were beautiful and well attended at Saint Gabriel Church. Special thanks to all the ministers who made that possible.
- The Easter season (Eastertide) comes to a close with the glorious Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, June 8. Ordinary Time, with its green vestments, resumes on Monday, June 9.

**Social Justice/Human Concerns Committee – Meeting held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- **Kindness Project:**
  - Thanks to the generosity of John and Betsy Kirkham, Unilever, and the parishioners, 600+ personal items were collected by May 18<sup>th</sup>. These were complied with other personal items and ~ 45 bible verse booklets and delivered to Yale University where student volunteers will put them in bags for delivery to the Niantic Women's Prison for distribution by Tiheba Bain the week of June 2
  - A "thank you" note for the donations will appear in the bulletin soon.
- **Pro-life Ministry:**
  - Diaper drive collection held on May 31 and June 1
  - The committee will meet no later than the week of June 9<sup>th</sup> to decide how and when to distribute to the Hope Pregnancy Center and St. Gianna Center

- Suggested prayers of the Faithful were given to Fr. John
- **Garden Project**
  - Seedlings to be planted: tomatoes, eggplant, green peppers, jalapeno peppers, yellow squash, zucchini, cukes, and tomato.
  - On the weekend of May 24-25 volunteers prepared the soil for planting.
  - Requesting more volunteers with a shovel, work gloves, and a smile. Volunteers for watering are also needed.
- **Human Trafficking**
  - Fr. John has agreed to host a Holy hour on July 30, 2025 for human trafficking on behalf of human trafficking task force.
- **Homefront:**
  - Successful day on May 17 with all projects completed. Congratulations to all volunteers, John Marmolejo, and Knights of Columbus.
  - Rose Marie and Kathleen hosted an excellent and delicious appreciation dinner afterwards.
- **Vocation Ministry of Marriage**
  - Will be holding first meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM St. Ann Office
  - Is this part of Human Concerns Committee Responsibility or a separate committee?
- **Next meeting** is not yet scheduled

#### **Parish Life – Cathy Coda and Rose Marie Marmolejo**

- The TAG Sale held on Memorial weekend in the school gym was once again an enormous success. The tag sale has a powerful impact on the community. So many thanks to each and every one for a job well done. Special thanks to Mary Jo Downs for her hard work and leadership skills.
  - \$4,141.01 was raised many items were donated to local organizations
  - Some items went to Beth El Shelter to help families set up their new living quarters.
  - Clothing goes to Deacon Dean and his clothing ministry.
  - Some items were dropped at the Senior Center in Milford.
- Boys and Girls Village donations were collected at the May coffee and
- Coffee and will be on June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- November coffee and will collect donations for Wounded Warriors
- Home Front project was a great success, and all the projects were completed. The owners expressed great appreciation
- Parish Life group will have a trip to Newport RI on August 20th

### **Faith Formation: Maria Tomasetti**

- 26 children received their First Holy Communion in May 2025. Seven additional children/teens will be completing preparation in June 2025.
- "True North" Summer VBS Camp, scheduled for the week of July 21 thru July 25. Registration for campers (ages 4 thru 10/11) is ongoing until July 11, 2025. We continue to recruit adult, teen, and preteen volunteers. The volunteer kick-off meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 6:30 pm. Please contact Maria, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 with any questions re: our summer camp or volunteer roles.
- 2025/2026 Faith Formation information will be available in both churches by August 1, 2025. Information re: our monthly GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) program will also be mailed to all registered parishioners with children between the ages of 5 and 16 as well as GIFT families who are not parishioners. Families will also receive our First Reconciliation/First Communion and/or Confirmation mailings--as appropriate for the ages of their children/teens.

### **Constitution By-Laws Committee Report:**

- The amendment was approved and ratified by Father John:
  - a. *Additional names will be drawn to be used in the event of a member not being able to complete their term. This was approved for Article VI*
  - b. *All revisions decided this year will be incorporated into the By Laws document and present it in September and approved by the council.*

### **Deacon George Acknowledgement and Thank you reception**

- Scheduled for Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Ann

### **Communication Committee**

- The committee will be working to ensure all communication venues have consistent messaging.
- Joyce and Frances will be responsible to review all email messages received by the church in the Gmail account.

### **Election of Officers**

- Josh Twidwell has agreed to be Secretary
- Frank L will be Vice Chair
- Rose Marie M. will be Chair

Rosemary concluded the meeting by thanking outgoing members Terri, John A, and Wally

Next Parish Council Meeting is September 22, 2025 at St. Gabriel Hall