

Christ The King Church
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
September 25, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 705pm.
2. All members were present including new members Pete D'Antonio and Brandon Cooley (late arrival).
3. Fr. Jon opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. The minutes from the last meeting as amended were approved unanimously.
5. The election of officers for 2023-24 was conducted. The council unanimously approved the following:
 - A. Chair: Karena Rosa
 - B. Vice-chair: Jennifer McHugh-Barker
 - C. Secretary: John Kearney
 - D. Trustee: Theresa-Rose Woodward
 - E. Representative to Haddonfield Council of Churches: Jen Coelho
6. Old Business: There was a discussion of the status of the parish mass schedule. Fr. Jon reported that no changes in the schedule will be implemented at the present time as the matter is studied further.
7. New Business: The book "Why They Follow" by Matthew Warner was distributed to each council member. It was also noted that the author discussed the book on the July 24, 2023 "Word on Fire" podcast. The book will be discussed at the next council meeting to see if it might provide us with some helpful ideas.
8. Fr. Jon discussed the idea of continuing the practice of distributing a book to all mass attendees at Christmas. After exchange of various ideas, it was decided that the best way to promote the parish was to distribute a brochure at Christmas listing all the upcoming parish activities and events for 2024.
9. Fr. Jon discussed #Giving Tuesday and raised the question of whether we should participate as a parish this year and, if so, in what manner. After much discussion about possible projects, it was decided that Fr. Jon would contact Catholic Charities for help in identifying a Ukrainian family in the diocese that needs financial assistance. If no appropriate recipient family is identified in time, the parish will not move forward with Giving Tuesday this year.

10. There was a discussion about the work of the Social Justice Committee. Fr. Jon reported that feedback about the various speakers has been mostly positive. Moreover, several parishioners have been inspired by speakers to become involved in various projects. Fr. Jon then raised the issue of what should be the next steps for the program as it enters its third year. Fr. Jon asked the council to consider having the full parish adopt a cause or an organization to which our parishioners could lend their considerable talents. To formulate such a program, it was suggested that the Social Justice Committee should talk to parishioners already doing volunteer work to get their thoughts about what is needed in our community. It was also suggested that listening to members of the African American community who attend churches in Haddonfield and Camden might reveal further ideas for us to consider. The Social Justice Committee will follow up on these suggestions and report to the council at the next meeting.
11. Jen Coelho, as our parish representative to the Haddonfield Council of Churches, reported that the Feed My Starving Children program will be conducted at the Haddonfield Middle School on Nov. 17 and 18.
12. Meeting dates for the council for 2023-24 were set as follows: Nov. 29th, Jan. 24th, March 20th, and May 8th (discernment meeting).
13. Fr. Jon headed the discussion about the music director position. He noted that music director is the second most important position in the parish. He also pointed out that he prefers to hire one person for the music director position following the Christ Our Light model where that person has liturgical planning as well as music responsibilities. Council member Don Nigro indicated that he does not think a music director is needed and is not applying for that position, but he wishes to be choir director with responsibility for playing all funerals. After explaining his position, Don left the meeting so that the council could consider the issue. Fr. Jon reiterated his preference for one person in charge of the music ministry. It was agreed that we need to follow a due diligence process whereby the position of music director is defined in a written job description, the job is posted, and all candidates are fairly and thoroughly considered. A subcommittee was formed consisting of Theresa, Mary Rose, John K and Fr. Jon to move forward with the job search for a music director.
14. Deacon Mike closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

John Kearney, Secretary