

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH

### Pastoral Council Minutes

October 29, 2025

Present: Bishop Lucia, Fr Ben Schrantz, DC John Pedrotti, Tracy Capone, Todd Chase, Jennifer Kline, John Herrmann, Peggy Ford, Darlene St John, Sharon App, Kathy Fisselbrand, Maureen Murphy, Lyn Pinto, Angie Banes, Liz Case, David Ditz, Kristin Jankowski, Cece Kurpita

**OPENING PRAYER**—Fr Ben led us in opening prayer.

**MINUTES FROM OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING**—The minutes of the September meeting were approved as presented.

**SUGGESTION BOX.** 1) It was suggested ceiling fans be used in the church to prevent stuffiness during Mass in the winter months. After discussion it was decided to leave as it is because temperatures vary throughout the year. We are doing the best we can to keep the church at a comfortable temperature for the different seasons. 2) We should consider offering a free library. The idea was well received, and it was noted that there are several books in the church office which could be used for this purpose. 3) It was suggested to change daily Mass times to 5:30 so people who work during the day can attend Mass with families. This idea will be tabled and taken into consideration.

### **MINISTRY REPORTS---**

**Stewardship-Sharon...**No Updates

**Parish Life & Worship-Cece...**There is an additional recertification training session scheduled for Safe Environment Training at St Augustine's on 12/9/25.

**Spiritual Development-Darlene...**Holy Ground Coffee Hour continues bi/weekly. The next Women's Connection group will be held on 11/19/25.

There will be an Advent Parish Retreat on 12/13/25.

Darlene also wanted us to think about ways to reach out to people moving into new surrounding developments to advise them about St Augustine's. It was suggested that if we can prepare a brochure, it could be distributed to realtors to hand out to people moving into our neighborhoods. It was noted we may have an old brochure which could be updated.

**Parish Outreach-Peggy...**A handout was distributed noting all updates for various programs SAM is currently involved with.

Also, the Baldwinsville Interfaith Green Team recently brought dinner to the middle school youth group and offered information and an activity about St Francis of Assis in honor of his birthday.

Members of The Advocates for Social Justice attended a flag raising ceremony at City Hall during the Lead Poisoning Awareness Week in mid-October.

In addition, the members involved in the Luke 10 Kairos training continue with 9 months of training via zoom 2 times per month. Their focus is to spread social justice programs to other churches.

An updated handout was distributed outlining the many items made & donated by the Prayer Shawl Ministry to date in 2025.

**YOUTH REPORT**—Jen reported that the Glow with God event was well received & enjoyed. She is working with representatives from St Elizabeth Ann Seaton & St Mary's to reach out to all youth and bring youth ministry to all 3 churches. They are seeking ways to build up the membership of middle school age youth.

Mary Ryce is involved in organizing a Christmas presentation.

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT**---Lyn... No update currently as there has not been a DPC meeting since our last Pastoral Council meeting.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS**—Bishop Lucia met with a member of law enforcement who advised they could provide a workshop on safety. This would be a proactive event involving all 3 Baldwinsville churches to raise safety awareness.

Recommendations to make people feel safer are as follows:

- Have a task force in place to refer and deter anyone acting out.
- Ushers monitor during Mass
- Keep doors unlocked during Mass
- Perform a sweep of the church before and after Mass
- If there are any parishioners who are members of law enforcement, ask them to help out
- Develop an active shooter plan
- Have cameras in place outside & inside the buildings (we currently have some cameras)

Maureen volunteered to chair a sub-committee to address safety issues

**KEY ISSUES**---David advised there are 45 locks that would need to be changed. He obtained an estimate for \$881 to perform this. It was agreed we should proceed to the finance committee with this proposal to change the locks.

**TITHING REQUESTS**—After discussion, it was determined that the tithing money has been turned over to SAM. It was suggested that a "Good Samaritan Account" be set up to distribute money on a case-by-case basis. A person could be designated to take calls on an emergency basis & present them to SAM. Chris Raddell & Paul Defelice will need to coordinate this.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**—30 + baskets are being displayed for the basket raffle. \$14,000 has been raised to date for the big raffle. There are approximately 30 seats left to fill for the dinner before we will be at capacity.

**INFORMATION TABLE**—Kathy reminded all to contact Lucretia to sign up to cover the table when they can.

**PROPOSED SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM— “The Passion of Christ”.** Kathy Meus and her vocal group are offering to perform for free on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Darlene was given the okay to book them.

**PRAYER SERVICES---**Because we have so few Masses now, Darlene asked if it would be possible to have communion services and/or prayer services. Bishop Lucia will discuss with Fr Ben for this to possibly happen on Thursdays.

**PROPOSED SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM--** A Social Justice Education Program was proposed. Katie Holmes would provide articles in the bulletins and hold sessions regarding the history of refugee resettlement in Syracuse. It was decided the timing for this would be best as a follow up to the Cabrini presentation.

**FORMULATE SCHEDULE FOR 2025-2026 PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETINGS---**It was suggested that we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the month. Since this may cause conflicts with other church committee meetings, we will discuss it further at our next meeting. It was also noted that Bishop Lucia & Fr Ben would attend when possible.

**OTHER ISSUES---**David suggested that we schedule food pantry collections on a regular basis as we have done in the past. It was noted that SAM has this under control presently.

**PASTORS COMMENTS—**Bishop Lucia told us he appreciated patience as his schedule is getting more set. We advised him that we were thankful for his presence & input.

**Next Meeting---December 10, 2025 at 6:30** (no dinner)

**Closing Prayer—**was given by Bishop Lucia

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Peggy Ford**