Saint Bridget Parish Council Minutes  
**Wednesday; November 20, 2024**

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| Father Ken Shuping PRESENT  Rev. Seth Seaman PRESENT  Bruce Slough, Chairperson PRESENT  Allie Strollo, Secretary PRESENT  Pat Accardo PRESENT  Julia Williams PRESENT  Mike Wilder ABSENT | Frank Devenoge PRESENT  Tom Giannasi ABSENT  Kristine Keeney PRESENT  Mack Rich ABSENT  John Rogers PRESENT  Tara Chiudian ABSENT |

# Opening

* 6:03PM – Meeting was called to order by Bruce Slough
* Opening prayer, Father Ken

# Approval of Minutes

* 6:06 PM Meeting minutes from October 2024 meeting were approved by the council

# Liaison Reports

## Liturgy – Mack Rich

* The Liturgy Committee will review liturgical wine options researched by Deacon Charlie. We have been using regular table wine since 2020.
* The 7:30 a.m. Mass for the following feasts will not have incense: Feast of Christ the King (11/23-24), Feast of the Holy Family (12/28-29), Feast of the Epiphany (1/4-5), and Baptism of Jesus (1/11-12).
* During Advent, a parishioner will process in with the Priest/Deacon/Altar Servers to light the Advent Wreath during the opening hymn. Ushers will recruit a volunteer at each Mass.
* Sacramental wine is being looked into with distributors

## Christian Formation-Kristine Keeney

* Working on the Christian Formation committee meeting monthly again
* The Sarah Kroger was a nice event. Several youth groups and other youth in attendance
* Successful peanut sale for the Youth Group-specifically the summer camp program
  + Additional peanuts are available

## Social Ministry- Julia Williams

* SVDP- Hopefully everyone saw the WTVR focus on the new Hotel to Home program launched at both our conference and St. Michael’s. They are currently working to house a family who contacted us recently and should have them placed by next month, which is important because the mother was expecting. Congratulations to the group of faithful parishioners and continue to keep the work they are doing in your prayers.
* Haiti- Sadly we learned that co-chair, Dale Fickett lost his partner Tonya to a recent struggle with cancer this past Sunday. Parishioner John Dyer had been leading the Haiti effort as of late and please keep this ministry in your prayers and for Dale and Tonya and their families.
* Christmas Sharing is LIVE- we are already showing parish participation and volunteer interest in this annual activity. We have confirmed the use of the blacktop area for the POD with the school and also for the gift drive through needs from Dec 11- 13 th. Volunteer signup has been shared with the Saint Bridget School Service Team and our MS/HS Youth groups. We will also be sharing the volunteer signup in the bulletin for the weekend of 11/24/24. If anyone would like to assist with this effort, please let Julia know

a. Signup to adopt will be live through 12/6/24

b. Early gift drop off will be 12/11-12/13

c. Sharing event setup will be the evening of the 13 th

d. Family/agency pickup will be 12/14 from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

4) Fr. Ken and I will be touring the new Caritas complex next week in

conjunction with the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care

5) We have submitted for the Diocesan Fuel and Hunger and Respect for Life

grants this year, and should receive an update in December. I have also

been asked to serve on the review committee for the Diocese for Fuel and

Hunger and Fr. Ken has agreed regarding my participation.

6) I would like to thank Patrick and the MS/HS youth for helping do thank you

cards for Veterans that will be shared with the LVS Meal being collected

and served tomorrow. This will be a nice surprise for them.

November 30-Dec 1 The angel tree will be set up. Several angels are still available. Having them online didn’t work as well.

* Discussion was had about having a visiting priest come and then a second collection specific for the need or organization. This used to happen occasionally. Should we look into doing that again possibly quarterly or yearly. Father Ken would like to reach out to Fr Godfred to come back to give an update on the orphanage

## Community Life and Evangelization – John Rogers

* Discussion was had about Donuts after mass. Right now it’s once a month after 9AM mass. Money and volunteers would be needed, but it’s a great opportunity for fellowship. Possibly reaching out to the Knights of Columbus. Shaina Velesz is the Service Team Coordinator at the MS.

# Pastor Report

## Fr Ken

* Diocesan Synod
  + October 2025" to "October 11, 2025-Catholic Fest in Richmond
  + Details to come

## Fr Seth

* Still in the process of “Evangelical Catholic”. It will begin in the beginning of November

# Principal Report

* IGiveCatholic Day of Giving is Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Students will be given necklaces with school logo and QR code for link to donation website.
* Upcoming events
  + Faculty and Staff kicking off with treats and goodies for the Advent Season
  + 12/2 9:30AM Advent Prayer Service
  + 12/10-12/11 Student Reconciliation
  + 12/9 9:30AM All School Mass-Feast of the Immaculate Conception
  + 12/19 9:30AM Kindergarten Nativity
  + 12/20 10AM 8th Grade Nativity
* In lieu of meeting in December, members of the council are invited to attend the Kindergarten Nativity presented by the school on Thursday, December 19 at 9AM followed by donuts and coffee

# Old Business

* Disciple maker Index survey
  + 505 responses total; about a 50% return rate
  + Still waiting on results to come back and be presented to Fr Ken. Once the data comes back, Fr Ken will share.
  + Dec. 5 the consultant comes to discuss the data.
  + Working groups will be put together to analyze and action plan. Survey data from two and a half years ago will also be looked at and compared so that information isn’t looked over.
* 75th Anniversary Activities
  + T-shirts are still available. Donations are being collected for those that would like to “donate” a shirt
  + Commemorative Book-”Pages” can be purchased. Statements and/or photos can be submitted. Some corporate sponsors have already committed. This is a fundraiser for the parish and the deadline is Dec. 16. February 1 is the Feast of Saint Bridget and the book will be ready. The Bishop is attending 5PM mass that evening, followed by dinner in MPH.
  + Rotating exhibits in the commons
  + Feb 1-Anniversary closes on Feast of Saint Bridget; Evening mass followed by dinner

# New Business

* Change of the bells during the Advent Season. A motion was made to change it to the Westminster. Right now, the bells at 12 and 6 Angelus rings (3 sets of 3) which is a traditional way to call people to pray to the Angelus. The bells also ring 5 minutes prior to mass except for 7:30AM mass to respect the neighbors
* The Bishop is wanting to have a Diocesan Synod. Over the next two years, we will receive questions to go over. Around June, 2025 expect Parish listening sessions.
* The Bishop would like to have all parishes separately incorporated. The Diocese is one corporation currently (schools, parishes, campus ministries, etc.). This means the parish would become incorporated.
* Parish Directory-We haven’t had one for years.
* Driving service for elderly-could we possibly start a ministry to support this mission?
* Please submit pictures to Fr Ken so we can get them updated on the parish council board in the commons

# Parishioner Feedback: Suggestion Box

* None

# Adjournment

* Meeting adjourned 7:21 PM
* Next meeting date-In lieu of meeting in December, members of the council are invited to attend the Kindergarten Nativity presented by the school on Thursday, December 19 at 9AM followed by donuts and coffee