
GA PPC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 1/14/25

Attendees

Matthew Amos, James Cady, Fr Joe Connelly (Pastor), Marymartha Heasley, Lourdes Rivera, Pat Ryan (Parish Administrator), Steve Sims (Trustee), Debbie Stadt, Jonathan Amos, Cara Barone, Sonya Coelho, Pat Dolan.


Absentee

Mike Braun (Deacon)

Agenda

1. JOC update

- a. **Refugee...we are meeting on tutoring 4-6 hispanic people to learn English with our group from GA in February; we have a parishioner tutor with them and we will see where everything goes. We have 5-6 people at GA who want to help them learn English also(only vocabulary). We continue to do Tossed & Sorted and the coats were distributed to 30 families in St Paul. We are sponsoring a former Karen family with the ability to get their license to help them get their family around the City.**
 - b. **Giving Center...we discontinued the outreach grants in July, 2024; we have 6-8 people who get gas cards on average each month at Holiday in Woodbury. No cost to the parish. We give out most gift cards through Community Thread, Refuge & JCS Sober living as was shared in the bulletin at Christmas to spread the holiday cheer! We only collect gift cards at Christmas for these programs. We sponsored 36 families from Community Thread this Christmas!**
 - c. **Loaves & Fishes...we continue to volunteer each month. 8-10 people usually help with serving and helping cook for over 270-300 people every 2nd Sunday of the month.**
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- d. **Respect Life/Life & Human Dignity...** We meet each month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month(change of date due to the synod groups). We are meeting to try to get a full view of life issues each month. January subject is on Immigration...a few members from Casa Guadalupe will be speaking on this issue. We get 6-10 people each month.
 - i. There is also a handout that Hannah Schwarze from Casa Guadalupana shared at the 1/14/2025 Life & Human Dignity Committee meeting attached with these minutes.
 - e. **Prison Ministry:** We have 26 Penpal people who write their incarcerated people and we meet each month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11am. Speakers are planned each month. We usually get 20 people at our monthly meetings. We have Karen Kitchel speaking to the group in January.
 - f. **Creation Care/Food Garden..**We have a proposal from Washington County that Terry Quinn & John Capecchi were happy with having individual plots for the Garden in the spring. We are waiting on Pat Ryan to call Catholic Mutual to see if we can make this a go. Alyssa Wolf will talk to the group in February about this.
 - g. **Food with Friends Meals –** Next meal will be January 25th. This will be our Refugee Christmas and is also for all from GA; we will have white elephant gifts for the people.
 - h. **Befrienders—Pastoral Talk 101** each month. We are getting 10-15 people at each meeting per month. Eight of us meet with befrienders each month in their homes. We will have Carmen Franzmeier speaking to the group in January. Carmen works for the Martin Center for Integration.
2. **Faith formation**
- a. **Lukas advised that:**
 - i. **Family Faith Formation:** We had our 7th session on January 5th. Our program has 40 families registered. We have an average of 29 families in attendance on any given week. Based on attendance, only 3 attended fewer than 2 sessions. I have received feedback that class sizes are too large for the kids, which is true. Next year, I will make a more concerted push for catechists.
 - ii. **Sacraments:** We have 30 children in the 1st sacraments program. 1st reconciliation will be on January 19th. With the hire of Andy Watts, our confirmation program will restart in the next two months. We are

working on the schedule & program currently. Our next class will likely be confirmed in Spring of 2026.

- iii. **Young Adults: Fr. Joe & I ran a two-part series, "Introduction to Prayer" for 5 potential young adult leaders in Advent. The trial program seemed successful, and I'd like to use it again at a larger scale. We will be doing training for our young adult leaders this winter. The goal is to have a few young adult small groups start up.**
- iv. **Bible Study - Numbers were extremely low - 3 people. Friday Morning during Advent was not an ideal time. Bible Study will return, but will be at a different time.**
- v. **Advent Retreat - We began with dinner, followed by a talk. Fr. Jim Perkl walked us through two icons of the Holy Family and Adam & Eve being consoled by Mary. There were 35-40 people present.**
- vi. **Book Club - returns soon. We're reading Brideshead Revisited. Theme - how God's grace is always at work, despite our awareness of it.**
- vii. **Totus Tuus - Our date this summer will be June 22 - June 27.**
- viii. **Small Groups - We are holding a retreat for our SET team, and all current or potential small group leaders on January 25th. The theme will be "Relationship, Identity, and Mission".**

3. Staff updates

- a. **Andrew Watts is officially hired for faith formation.**
 - i. **Confirmations will be in spring now, first class will have a gap.**
- b. **Office Manager is also set, Anne Flores will be taking the position.**
- c. **Trial run for a music director candidate is ongoing.**

4. Stained glass quilt displays

- a. **Due to the hallway on the main floor not having enough support to hold the quilts, they will be moved downstairs onto the stage.**

5. Other additions

- a. **Steering Committee**
 - i. **Will meet to discuss the vision of Fr. Joe for the space.**
- b. **Safety Committee**



- i. Recruiting people to stand by the doors during mass so they can let people in who are running late, doors (except main ones) will be locked. Committee is hopeful they can start February 1st.
6. Next meeting February 11th, 2025, at 5:15pm.