
GA PPC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 10/11/2025

Attendees

Fr Joe Connelly (Pastor), Pat Ryan (Parish Administrator), Debbie Stadt, Cara Barone, Marymartha Heasley, Sonya Coelho, Steve Sims (Trustee), Mike Braun (Deacon), Matthew Amos, Jonathan Amos

Absentee

Pat Dolan, Lourdes Rivera

Agenda

1. Input from Parishioners:

- a. There were some questions on the new Alter's process of building it.
 - i. It will be built all at once and not step by step.
- b. There were some questions on if the choir could stop practicing 10-15mins before mass started.
 - i. Father will look into this.

2. JOC Update:

- a. November 2025...Update on JOC/Befrienders by Terry Quinn.
 - b. Refugee...We continue to do Tossed & Sorted and Dave Graebner & other refugees help get it to the refugees at this time. We also collect for St Vincent de Paul every week they come and pickup at GA; former refugees are helping others immigrants in getting clothing etc
 - c. Giving Center...we had 7 people this month with gas cards at Holiday in Woodbury. No cost to the parish. In the giving center, we collect for Brittany's Place, the card ministry, Refugee, Santa shop, and Bags/Food for Open Cupboard.
 - d. We are doing a coat drive starting in October and making care package assembly packets for the homeless before Thanksgiving; our specific date is November 13th. We provided 250 packets in August. We hope to give them out Nov 15-16
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- e. Loaves & Fishes...we continue to volunteer each month. 8-10 people usually help with serving and helping cooking for over 270-300 people every 2nd Sunday of the month.
- f. Respect Life/Life Human Dignity...we are putting on a event on November 8th with Katie Linderfelter from Crescent Cove
- g. Prison Ministry: We have 20 Penpal people who write their incarcerated people and we meet each month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11am. We have added Birthday cards each meeting too along with a speaker. We usually get 15 people at our monthly meetings.
- h. Creation Care/Food Garden..John Capecchi mentioned to me that he is working with Pat Ryan and Fr Joe on the garden for next year. All went well this year with John's leadership this summer.
- i. Food with Friends Meals –we will have an event on January 3rd for refugees and other people. We are looking for suggestions for ideas for the future. Food to People helps with providing a meal. We will have an event for Refugees with Bingo in January. we may be working with Our Lady of Guadalupe in St Paul in the future. Father Joe will email Pat Dolan and Vivian Capistrant about us meeting with Luis from Our Lady
- j. Befrienders/Pastoral each month. We are getting 8-10 people at each meeting per month. Our meeting each week with the griefshare video for grief group for seven more weeks through December & into January and for befrienders 8-10 people with Steve Sims helping. Twelve of us meet with befrienders each month in their homes(a total of 30 people are visited by our team. Also, our Caring group.. is the 3rd Thursday by zoom lead by Liz. There is four people in this group. We may have an Alzheimer's caregivers groups in the future. Father Joe will ask the parish council. We are introducing Holiday Hope Support with Bob Brickley helping me with people dealing with the holiday's. We are trying to do the same things with cancer group.
- k. Also, Boulder Ponds men's bible study is happening every other week and 10 people are in attendance. It will be on the Old Testament prophets and Social Justice. We have 3 GA befrienders at Boulder who want this study. We see over 6 people each week there for communion.
- l. Christmas Program this year goes for 4 weeks starting on November 22-23rd ending in middle of December. We are working with Dave & Jill Graebner with the families and it is all gift cards for refugee, emergency funds and Our Lady of Guadalupe families as we work on this new sister parish relationship.

3. Parish Survey:

- a. The survey is now complete.
 - i. 1,033 average people per weekend at masses.
 - ii. Family numbers are up from this year compared to last year.
 - iii. And overall all numbers are up this year compared to last year.

4. Engagement commission:

- a. The new parishioner brunch had 22 people show up and was a success!

5. Chesterton Academy

- a. Chesterton Academy is looking for new space and Father is looking to see if it might be a good fit to have them come in GA's school wing.
 - i. Nothing is official/immediate and this is very much in the early stages.

6. Faith Formation Update:**a. From Lukas:**

- i. Faith Formation is going steady.
- ii. We registered for Totus Tutus 2026 - the exact date is TBD. Likely to be in July this year due to available dates/
- iii. The first RISE middle/high school begins tomorrow night!

b. From Andy:

- i. High School Youth Group begins this coming Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm.
- ii. Trunk or Treat was a success but rain definitely affected the events, 250 people attended.
- iii. Trivia Night is on Saturday, November 15, 2025, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM. I encourage all those on the PPC to attend. Bookings can be found on the parish website. We would like to have you there supporting our High Schoolers going on the Mission Trip in 2026.
- iv. Spots are booked for the 2026 Mission Trip, we are going to Billings, Montana. Fundraising for this will be in full swing soon.

7. Capital Campaign Update:

- a. A couple of party events in November.
 - i. Dates are: 14th, 16th, & 22nd in the youth center.

8. Our Lady of Guadalupe Partnership:

- a. Pat Dolan and Vivian Capistrant are leading the charge in working between the parishes.

9. Other additions:

- a. Anne Erickson has announced her resignation From Chair of the Safety and Security Committee effective 01/01/2026.
 - i. We thank Anne for all her help and service!

- **NEXT MEETING: December 9th, 2025 at 5:15 P.M**