

**Minutes of the 515th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

November 14, 2024

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, Dirk Dooper, Daniel Best, David Danhauer, Gary Gant, Joe Harris, Suzanne Padgett, Russell Vaughn

Members Absent: Katie Pagan

Parish Team: Alex Reid

I. Call to Order

Dirk Dooper opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the October 3, 2024, meeting.

IV. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer

A. Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer

David Danhauer reported collections are down. Fr. John Thomas stated the parish had \$50,000. of unscheduled repairs.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Suzanne Padgett

Suzanne Padgett announced the parish is preparing for Advent. There is a server training meeting for ages 6th grade and up on November 17, 2024. On December 1, 2024, servers are switching from wearing albs to cassocks and surplices. The Parish Advent Reconciliation Service is December 22, 2024, at 2:00 pm. The Thanksgiving Mass is at 8:00 am. Faith Fest will be at St. Stephen Cathedral on November 21, 2024, at 6:30 pm. Lessons and Carols will be held on December 5 and 6, and Kentucky Youth Chorale will perform December 17, 2024. The church environment will be changed to Christmas on December 22-23, 2024.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Joe Harris

Joe Harris stated the next Social Concerns Committee meeting is November 21, 2024. He announced the Block Party was a success with 225 people in attendance. Two “Serve Saturdays” have been held with over 17 people helping at Brescia. Joe suggested a box for suggestions be placed in the back of church. After discussion by the PPC it was decided not to do it.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Daniel Best

Daniel Best announced the Pray & Play will meet on November 21, 2024, with the group continuing to study Jesus and the Eucharist. Faith Formation, as a part of Serve Saturday, has a service project collecting gently used toys to the local shelters. First Reconciliation celebration was held on November 10, 2024. Cheryl, Rick, and Katrina are studying the possibility of forming a social events committee due to the lack of help with setting up and cleaning up for the Fall Block Party. First Friday Adoration is December 6, 2024. Praise & Worship Holy Hour with Reconciliation is December 8, 2024 at 4:00 pm. A meal in Community Center will be provided afterwards. Breakfast with St. Nicholas will be December 14, 2024, from 9:00-11:00. It will transition from breakfast to Story Time, Crafts, and a visit from St. Nicholas.

E. Youth – Suzanne Padgett (on behalf of Katie Pagan)

Suzanne Padgett reported we are averaging 30 kids for youth group nights and the youth house is full. Twenty-three are going to ODYC in Hopkinsville on November 22-23, 2024. Karina has partnered with Habitat for Humanity and each of the small groups will have the opportunity to do different projects. Our high school girls painted a storage shed. Confirmation preparation has begun with 10 participants.

Fr. John is teaching a Young Adult Cooking class on November 15, 2024. They will be preparing lasagna roll ups. We have multiple young adult women that are either actively discerning with a religious community or in a program to learn about discernment.

F. Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn

Russell Vaughn reported bids are coming in for repair projects. Fr. John Thomas added we have an infestation of bats in the church attic. Orkin has presented a bid of \$20,000. We are getting other bids.

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Gary Gant

Gary Gant reported the Prayer, Service, and Generosity packets were mailed to all parishioners on November 4, 2024. The witness testimonies were presented at all masses on November 17, 2024. Gary stated we are currently working to re-invigorate our St. Stephen Cooking team. Chef Buddy McCarter has agreed to be head of the team.

V. New Business

Fr. John Thomas reported we received a \$22,000 bill for the Feasibility Study. We will argue that the quote was for \$14,000.

VI. Unfinished Business

The new member receptions will be held February 15, May 17, August 16, and November 15, 2025. The name tags for PPC members are in the sacristy. Send a picture and biography to Crissy.

VII. Action Items

Fr. John Thomas will follow up on Russell Vaughn's suggestion to honor vets with 2 reserved parking places.

VIII. Pastor's Report

Fr. John Thomas announced Deacon Conrad will be ordained to the Deaconate on January 4, 2025. His priesthood ordination is May 31, 2025, at 10:00 am. His first Mass will be June 1, 2026, at St Stephen.

IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy November 1st Birthday to Fr. John Thomas and November 25th Birthday to Russell Vaughn.

X. Closing Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in a closing prayer.

XI. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, December 12, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar