

St. Peter Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

Attendance: Father Marty, Mike O'Brien, Laura Sprague-Vallera, Vicki Bogdan, Mary Todzia, Jane Alaimo, Mike Farina, Skip Paul, Ralph Rand, Mary Beth Iacobelli, Melissa Carlson, Carmelo Rosa, Chase Mack, Chloe Brzoska, Chris Miller, Tony Cacase, Marion Enie

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Father Marty began the session with a special Parish Council prayer and blessing.

Approval of Previous Minutes

There were no minutes from the December meeting due to the lack of a Parish Council Secretary.

Parish Council Secretary Appointment

Mike O'Brien introduced Marion Enie as a volunteer candidate to fill the open Parish Council Secretary position. A motion to approve Marion was made by Mary Beth Iacobelli and seconded by Carmelo Rosa. There were no additional nominations, and Marion was approved to fill the position.

Old Business & Recent Events

The 4 PM Christmas Mass was well attended, with approximately 200 people present. This Mass featured student readers and a Christmas pageant. Both the 10 PM and 9 AM Masses saw equal participation, although exact attendance figures were not available.

The Parish Council By-Laws are currently undergoing a thorough review. A committee meeting is scheduled for January 13 to complete this process.

New Business & Upcoming Events

The Diocese-mandated anti-abuse poster, which includes reporting instructions, has been placed in multiple locations throughout the Church. Plans are underway to add the poster to the Parish website and to obtain an electronic version for reproduction in an enlarged format.

The Diocese has issued guidance that the offering for Mass stipends should be set at \$15.00. Concerns were raised that this increase for weekday Masses may present challenges for some parishioners. It was clarified that all stipend funds remain within the Parish. The bulletin announcement will be updated to "Stipend (~~Price~~) Charge For Masses."

Coffee Hour after Masses continues to foster connections within the Parish community. The next Coffee Hour is scheduled for February 22 with Faith Formation leading and a Lenten theme. Additional upcoming events include Mardi Gras on February 17 (committee: Tony, Chase, Jane, and Carmelo) and the Ladies Guild Bake Sale on March 28-29.

The online calendar is now active on the Parish website. To request additions, parishioners should email the church office. A request was made to include the Faith Formation schedule in the calendar.

The annual Youth Scholarship Award process will begin soon. Applications open in April, the deadline is in May, and awards are distributed in June. Historically, each applicant has received a \$1,000 scholarship, but sustaining this amount has become difficult. A committee consisting of Mary Beth Iacobelli, Father Marty, Carmelo Rosa, Chloe Brzoska, and Mary Todzia will meet on January 26 to discuss potential changes to the scholarship process and application form. Efforts to collect additional funds are underway, and it was suggested to include an altar announcement and comments from previous recipients regarding the scholarship's impact.

The parishioner list and envelope distribution are outdated, with 308 households currently receiving envelopes. New processes are being developed to survey parishioners and cross-reference existing lists to create a more accurate roster.

Tony Cacase announced that a dinner for priests will be held at Holy Apostles in March, with more details to follow.

Ministry Updates

Ladies Guild

Vicki Bogdan reported that the Ladies Guild was omitted from a recent Bulletin announcement thanking individuals and ministries for their assistance during the Christmas Fair. Although this omission was unintentional, it caused disappointment among Guild members. The Guild is currently making Valentine cards for shut-ins. The Guild is celebrating its 90th anniversary as a Parish Ministry.

Finance Committee

Ralph Rand reported that the Church is in a favorable financial position, with a surplus of \$10,000 to \$12,000. Significant year-end donations totaled approximately \$10,000, Christmas Masses generated around \$10,000, and the Christmas Fair raised \$19,000. Peter Sonski has joined the Finance Committee. Another Town Hall meeting is planned for February.

Tag Sale Committee

Mike Farina shared that the date for the town-wide Tag Sale has not yet been determined. A meeting to finalize scheduling will be held on January 23. Items from last year's sale need to be moved to the Church, and additional volunteers will be required to organize the event.

Faith Formation

Chase Mack and Chloe Brzoska reported a successful Christmas pageant. Upcoming activities include Confirmation volunteer service at St. Vincent DePaul (January-February) and a Retreat (March-April). Ninth graders will participate in the Stations of the Cross. On March 8 at the 11:00 AM Mass, Chase will serve as Lector and involve students. Pretzel making is planned as a Lenten activity. The committee is also researching new student workbooks with a more digestible format and sacramental focus.

Additional Discussion Items

A parishioner has volunteered to fund divider ribbons for the new Missals. It was suggested to post the Reading number alongside hymns, possibly in a different color for clarity.

Mike Farina and Father Marty proposed a living Rosary event on Monday, March 16, starting at either 6:00 or 6:30 PM.

Mary Beth Iacobelli inquired about progress on adding daily Adoration times to the Bulletin's front cover. Laura Sprague-Vallera explained that LPI is updating the software to Canva, and the cover's layout needs to be adjusted to accommodate this change. Father Joe has approved the addition.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM following a motion by Carmelo Rosa, seconded by Chloe Brzoska, and approved by all present. Father Marty concluded with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Enie
Recording Secretary