

**Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Monday, December 16, 2024. 6:30 p.m.**  
**Father Crawford Hall, Church of the Incarnation**

Chairwoman Nora Uricchio called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Father Nick led the members in saying the Jubilee Prayer. Members read the Parish Mission and Vision Statements.

Members Present: Debbie Abbate, Gina Burby, Jen Faenza, Deacon Keith Griffin, Erin Gaboury, Jim Gorman, Michelle Jakielo, Peter Leombruni, Paula Melillo, Father Nick Melo, Ken Mendoza, Father Zach Pushpanathan, Sharon Reynolds, Sal Santapaola, Nora Uricchio, Bryan Violette

Members Absent: Maria Maynard, Ann Sarpu

Parishioners Present: Felix Kessel, Nancy Kiely. Paul Spinella

The minutes of the September 12, 2024 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

A. Pastor's Report – Father Nick

Father Nick reminded us that Archbishop Coyne will visit our parish on Saturday, December 21 and preside at the 4:30 pm Mass. He will then greet parishioner in Father Crawford Hall at a reception.

Father Nick encouraged the men of the Council and the parish to attend our parish retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center on the weekend of February 21-23, 2025. It is possible to attend for one day if someone can't attend the entire weekend.

Our parish has received a generous bequest. James P. Sullivan has left Corpus Christi Church and School \$1,012,999.60. It will be divided between Christ the King Parish and Corpus Christi School.

The parcel of wooded property on Somerset Street across from the rectory has been approved by the Archbishop for sale and we have entered into an agreement with someone who will build a house on the land.

Starting in January, a weekly newsletter from the Archdiocese of Hartford will be included in the parish bulletin.

Deacon Michael Cassella's term at Christ the King Parish has ended. We thank him for his seven years of service to our parish and wish him well in his future endeavors. Beyond Bible Study will continue for three Mondays a month and Sister Maryann Cantlon will continue to lead the group on the fourth Thursday of the month.

B. Committee Reports

1. Social Action – Nancy Kiely

Strides are being made toward intergenerational participation on this committee in more activities to appeal to all ages, like the Care Bags for the homeless that were assembled in December.

Debbie suggested people have some of the Care Bags in their car to distribute as they drive through Hartford. Refer to the weekly church bulletin for details regarding ongoing and future projects.

2. Liturgy – Nora Uricciho

About 100 people attended the All Souls service for deceased members of the parish. Father Federico's visit was well received. Both species of Holy Communion will be offered at all Masses on November 24. People may sign up to light the Advent wreath at Masses beginning December 1. Jubilee Prayer of Hope will be said at all Masses. A two night Advent Mission was presented by Father Nick focused on the Jubilee Year of Hope using Pope Francis' Papal Bull Pilgrims of Hope. Next meeting is January 20, 2025.

3. Corpus Christi School – Ann Sarpu

School enrollment is 413 students with a waiting list for several grades. Basketball teams for girls and boys have been established for school students only. If the preschool program is expanded, the cost may be \$3,000,000 to renovate the second floor of the convent for needed space.

4. Religious Education – Gina Burby, Sharon Reynolds

Nurturing Seedlings is a new ministry for parents of children ages from birth to 5 years old. Parents will receive the support and skills to help their child develop spiritually and build community with other young parents.

Grades K-6 continue with classes and Masses with focus on Adoration, Rosary and Beatitudes. Grades 7-10 continue with classes and Masses. Confirmation students have been completing both parish and community service hours. Confirmation is on April 5 at 10:00 am at Saint Joseph Cathedral.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is off to a good start. Children hear and reflect on the Gospel in a way that is meaningful and age appropriate.

Souper Bowl Day of Caring is Sunday, February 2, 2025. Event theme, "May Your Bowl Never Be Empty"

5. Building and Grounds – Peter Leombruni

The bidding process for the drainage work needed at the north parking lot at Corpus Christi Church has been completed. The contract has been awarded to Corps Materials LLC for \$113,210.00. Work will start June 23, 2025 and completed by July 11, 2025.

6. Finance Council – Sal Santapaola

The parish is transitioning from one accounting firm to another therefore; no figures are available at this time. The Parish is seeking to employ a bookkeeper who will assist the current bookkeeper and take over on a full-time basis when the current bookkeeper retires.

7. Women's Club – Paula Melillo

Letters for membership renewal have been sent to women. We encourage women of the parish to join and support the club. Programs were presented in Father Crawford Hall during September, October and November. In September the club celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish women's organization with a Membership Tea and a musical program. The annual Christmas party was held at the Wethersfield Country Club.

In March for the Lenten program all parishioners are invited to hear Aaron Joseph founder of lay apostolate Saint Joseph Our Patron. Aaron will bring light to Saint Joseph's place in the Family Trinity of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The Cooking Team continues to cook meals/side dishes once a month for the months of September through December for the 45 residents of Saint Elizabeth House in Hartford.

8. Men's Club – Felix Kessel

Following a successful Men's Club sponsored Yard Goats game last year; the men will plan another outing to a game with perhaps a tailgate party in a church parking lot prior to the game. A

bus trip to New York for a Yankees baseball game is possible if several parishioners will assume the responsibility for organizing this event.

On December 1 a Christmas Party for children of the parish was held in Father Crawford Hall after the 9:30 Mass. Santa, Mrs. Claus, Barney, an artisan of balloons and storyteller interacted with the children. It was great fun time for parents and children.

9. Respect Life – Michelle Jakielo

The October baby bottle campaign for Saint Gerard Center for Life was very successful. More than \$7,000.00 was collected and donated to the center's reopening in January. The Archdiocese recently requested the parish post announcements in the bulletin about a future Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend for healing after an abortion.

C. Old Business

1. Status Report: Long Term Issues

a. Youth Engagement – Gina Burby, Nancy Kiely, Deacon Keith Griffin

Effort has been made to increase youth involvement during Mass. Some young people have been greeters, lectors and altar servers. Students helped with the distribution of baby bottles, assembly of care bags for the homeless, preparation of shelter meals, packed meals for Harvest Pack event, assembly of stress/safety bags for human trafficking survivors, collect food for the Thanksgiving food drive and collect coffee and sugar from parishioners for the House of Bread.

b. Establish a Welcome/Social Committee – Michelle Jakielo, Paula Melillo

In October there was a coffee social after the 9:30 Mass with time for parishioners to meet and enjoy coffee and donuts before listening to Alex Kuzma speak about the faith of the people of Ukraine in the midst of war. A family Bingo Night is being planned by the Religious Education team. Volunteers are needed to work on social programs for the parish.

c. Communication – Jen Faenza

Social media platforms are available for use by Christ the King Parish parishioners. This variety of platforms; Facebook, Instagram and myParish app offer parish information in addition to the weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter.

d. Safe Environment Training – Sharon Reynolds

There have been three training sessions offered. Two people attended the November session.

D. New Business

1. There will be Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm instead of 4:30 pm.

2. The Jubilee Prayer is printed and inserted in the missals in the pews and will be read at each Mass. The idea was proposed to have the Jubilee Prayer printed on cards to take home in addition to the ones in the missals.

3. The future Pastoral Council meetings will be held on March 10, 2025 and June 2, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 30 pm with a prayer by Father Zach.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Jakielo and Paula Melillo  
Co-Secretaries

