

St. William Parish Council
November 9, 2021

- **Opening Prayer:** The meeting opened with prayer entitled “*For the Synod.*”
- **Welcome/Review of September 14, 2021 Minutes:** Fr. Balash welcomed the members and asked if there were any changes to September 14, 2021, meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.
- **Ministry/Organization Reports:**
 - **Parish Life -- Diana Kirkwood.** Fr. Balash reported that the Champion Pride Council that organized many outreach events with all the local churches participating has disbanded. Therefore, any current activity of outreach will need to be parish organized. The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is one such activity. Similar to last year, it was decided that a collection would be taken for food gift certificates for the residents of Woodland Meadows instead of collecting food. It is hoped to provide a \$30.00 gift certificate to each resident. Diana Kirkwood reported that the parish is prepared to kick-off the annual Angel Tree for Christmas. The Salvation Army has provided 100 gift tags and gifts are due back December 12, 2021. Gifts are not to be wrapped or placed in a gift bag. The Salvation Army will pick up gifts on Monday, December 13, 2021. The Giving Angel Tree will be in the vestibule the weekend of November 20-21, 2021. The Parish Life Committee will meet on Thursday, November 11, 2021.
 - **Liturgy Committee -- Maureen Scott:** The committee met on October 19, 2021, to continue planning the upcoming Advent/Christmas season. The parish theme for Advent is “*Together We Wait.*” The All Soul’s Day Remembrance was held on October 30-31, 2021. There are two catechumens for RCIA this year. Saint William Parish is participating in a county-wide RCIA preparation process. Lessons and Carols will be held on November 30, 2021, and two county Advent Communal Reconciliation Services will be held on December 5, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, McDonald, and December 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament, Warren. People who signed up to become Liturgical Ministers at the Power Up→Reconnect event will be called and trained in the coming weeks. In December a regular Liturgical Minister schedule will return. The Christmas and New Year weekend Mass schedules have been determined. Mass on Friday, December 24, 2021, will be at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. There will not be a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday evening. Sunday, December 26, 2021, will be the Feast of the Holy Family with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass for New Year will be on Saturday, January 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. only. There will not be a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday evening. Sunday, January 2, 2022, will be the Feast of the Epiphany with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. This year, because January 1st falls on Saturday the obligation to attend Mass for New Year is dispensed.
 - **Women’s Guild -- Linda Horm:** The annual TNT Night was held on September 21, 2021. The October monthly meeting was held on October 6, 2021, with some new attendees from the Power Up→Reconnect event. The Guild voted to donate \$500.00 annually toward “youth leadership opportunities.” The Guild also purchased an additional table and six chairs for “Stories and Scripture” along with two new calculator machines for the Parish Office. The Guild also donated \$100.00 to “Make-A-Difference Day” activities. The Chance Auction was held on October 12, 2021, with the Camelot Center. The November meeting featured 11 handlers and dogs from

- PAWS (Providing Affection, Well-Being Support). Upcoming events include: Kolachi Bake, December 1, 2021; Parish Family Dinner, December 5, 2021; and Christmas Craft Show, December 11, 2021.
- **Religious Education** -- **Bette Lloyd:** In-person PSR classes continue with all diocesan safe-health recommendations in place. Make-A-Difference Day was held on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Families made 108 pumpkin pies with proceeds going towards Bibles that were purchased for the parish. Unsold pies were frozen and will be sold November 21-22, 2021, for Thanksgiving. The first Family Faith Celebration was held on Sunday, October 24, 2021. Each family received a Bible at this event along with children's Bibles. The Secret Prayer Partner program was started November 6-7, 2021, with a few more prayer partners needed. Children in grades 6-8 will deliver Thanksgiving gift bags to Woodland Meadow residents on Sunday, November 21, 2021. In conjunction with "Power UP→Reconnect with the Word of God" initiative, children in K-6 will receive a take-home Advent Jesse Tree. Families will work together to find and read daily Old Testament Scripture following the lineage of Jesus with the hope of establishing a daily Bible reading habit. Second grade students have begun their preparation for First Reconciliation in January. Adult Faith Formation began in September with Little Rock Scripture Study. 34 adults participated. Bibles purchased through the Parish Ministry Grant from Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union have been blessed and distributed. Additional Bibles will be available for purchase as Christmas gifts. Small Group communities are being planned for the parish to begin in the coming months. These small groups will be formed for anyone interested in joining. The parish retreat, "Come to the Water," was held on November 6, 2021, with 19 people participating. Participants expressed that the retreat was a beautiful and meaningful experience. The next retreat is planned for February 19, 2022, from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. and will focus on connecting with the Eucharist.
 - **Finance Committee** -- **Michael McClusky:** The Finance Committee met on November 2, 2021, and reviewed the first quarter activity for 2021-2022 fiscal year. A summary report was distributed to all members along with an Income/Expense report for July-September 2021. The parish remains in a positive financial position and will be moving forward with the Parking Lot Renovation Replacement Project in November/December.
 - **Youth Ministry** -- **Lauren Haynie:** Youth Ministry made 32 pumpkin pies and painted and delivered 105 pumpkins to parishioners over the age of 80 in October. Youth Ministry will also deliver Thanksgiving Gift Bags to Woodland Meadow residents on November 21, 2021. Saint William will host the virtual NCYC Convention on November 20, 2021. Participants will include youth from Saint Rose, Girard. Youth from Blessed Sacrament, Saint Mary, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Thomas the Apostle and Saint Mary, Orwell are interested in moving forward with a collaborative Youth Ministry program. Plans are underway for once-a-month service/faith sharing session from January-May 2022, with a possible Summer Mission Retreat. In December, Youth Ministry will make food and staff the kitchen for the Women's Guild Craft Show and will also help serve at the annual Parish Holiday Dinner. It was announced that Lauren Haynie, Parish Council Youth Representative, was chosen as one of the Trumbull County 20 Under 20 Award recipients. The members congratulated her on this achievement.
 - **Knights of Columbus:** -- **Brian McCue:** Dan Gelet was present in Brian McCue's absence and reported that over sixty tickets were sold for the Football Frenzy Fundraiser. The Knights had seven new men inquire about membership as a result of the Power Up→Reconnect event. Two men have already joined. On October 10, 2021,

the Knights celebrated their Corporate Communion Mass at 11:00 a.m. Mass and provided coffee and donuts afterwards. On October 23, 2021, the Knights sponsored a Sausage Sandwich Drive-Thru sale. 209 sandwiches were sold and a donation of part of the proceeds was made to the Diocesan Office of Vocations. The Knights will recognize Veterans on the weekend of November 13-14, 2021, and they will be selling “Keep Christ in Christmas,” yard signs for \$10.00 each in December. A council family Christmas dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

- **Pastor’s Report:**

- PowerUP→Reconnect Recap: Fr. Balash provided a brief recap of the PowerUP→Reconnect event that was held on Sunday, September 19, 2021.
- Parking Lot Project: Fr. Balash discussed the progress made on the plans to renovate and replace the Parking Lot. A cost estimate was provided and a plan to raise funds was discussed. It was recommended that the parish use \$100,000.00 of Fish Dinner funds for the project and that parishioners be approached in November about a Mini-Capital Campaign to raise additional funds. The remainder of funds needed for the project would be borrowed against the current loan. Fr. Balash distributed a copy of the letter that was being prepared to be sent to all parishioners announcing the project and plan to raise funds for it.
- Catholic Community in Warren: Fr. Balash briefly updated the members on the potential changes coming to the Catholic Community in Warren as called for the by the Regional Pastoral Plan of the Diocese. He reminded members that Saint William belongs to a region with Saint Robert Parish in Cortland and Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Vienna.

- **Synod Parish Questionnaire:** In preparation for the Trumbull County Deanery Meeting on the Synod on November 22, 2021, the members briefly discussed and offered answers to ten questions provided by the Diocese on the Synod. The answers will be collated with answers from the Parish Staff and be presented at the deanery meeting on November 22, 2021.

- **Member Comments:** None

- The next meeting of Parish Council will be on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.