**Parish Council Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023**

Attendees: Linda Gutoskey, Steve Bentz, Don Clemmer, Joe McKenna, Mike O’Neil, Keith Heimann, Jared Hoy, Katie Eckrich, Cathy Krouse, Cynthia Crosby, Deacon Rob Lortie, Fr. Tom

1. We expect to turn in the contents of our new parish directory by December 1st.

2. The school year has started smoothly, thankfully no major issues to address.

3. Scrip fundraising efforts have officially been discontinued and gift card inventory continues to dwindle to zero dollars.

4. The Greek Orthodox church on Wallen Road hosted an excellent informative gathering on Oct. 23. A good number of Saint Charles parishioners attended.

5. We have resumed offering Communion under both species at the 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday Masses. The response has been positive.

6. November 21st at 7:00 is the date for a temple Thanksgiving event at the synagogue close to Old Mill Road.

7. November 16th at 7:15 parishioner Caleb Perkins will share the story of his personal journey into the faith, with time for Adoration and music by Shema Culture. The event will be held in the church.

8. Damascus missionaries will host three upcoming events at St. Charles. November 19th will be an evening of prayer for middle schoolers, November 27th a Parish retreat, and November 29th a high school leadership event.

9. November 19th will be the first meeting for the New Mothers Group.

10. The Saint Charles Eucharistic Initiative continues to take shape in the form of planned study groups, the 40 hours of devotion on February 25, 26 and 27th and participation at the National Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21st.

11. A few big projects are in process around the Parish. 1) A contract has recently been signed to expand the youth house meeting areas. Work is set to begin in January 2024. 2) An architect is preparing final drawings for the replacement of school windows. This is an extensive undertaking that will modernize the look as well as increasing energy efficiency and adding safety precautions for our students. 3) The drainage problem by the parish office has been successfully fixed. 4) We have increased the lighting in the parking lot.

12. Four charities have been selected as beneficiaries of our annual Advent giving tree. They are Saint Vincent DePaul Society, Walking with Moms in Need, Saint Patrick’s Food Pantry, and the Saint Charles Pro-Life committee.

13. A Parish logo is in process of creation. No formal timetable is in place.

14. The parish is receiving a very large anonymous bequest. This will be announced in the parish within a few weeks. The council was asked to think about the best use of these funds.

The next Parish Council meeting will be January 3rd at 7:00 PM.