

**Sacred Heart Parish Prescott**  
**Minutes of the Pastoral Council**  
**November 21, 2024, Meeting**

**Attendees:** Martha Lamb, Chair, Jim Yates, Vice-Chair, Jon Gilwee, Craig Thompson, John Williams

**Absent:** Deacon Mark Weber, Mark Matthews, William Rodriguez

**Other Attendees:** Fr. Chris, Jim Wren, Alma Helms

**Call to Order/Opening Prayer:**

Martha called the meeting to order at 1:59pm. John led the opening prayer.

**Minutes Approval:**

The Minutes of the October 31, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed. A motion was made by Jim Y. that in the future, unless any objection is expressed, Minutes be approved by acclamation. The motion was seconded by John and was unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

*New Parishioners Report:* In Mark's absence, Martha provided his New Parishioner contact report. All contacts went well. A schedule for 2025 New Parishioners monthly contact responsibilities was distributed.

**New Business:**

*2025 Jubilee Year Plans:* The 2025 Jubilee Year will begin with the start of Advent but will formally begin at Sacred Heart on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Sacred Heart is a designated pilgrimage site in the Diocese of Phoenix. A Jubilee Peace Pole will be installed in the ground on the Sacred Heart campus. It will be located away from the Church's main entrance. The Jubilee Peace Pole will have messages in four languages. It will be covered until Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and it will be unveiled during the opening ceremony, that will include Mass at 9:00am. Bishop Dolan will preside over the opening ceremony and will celebrate the 9:00am Mass. Jim W. provided a further description of the ceremonies that will take place on January 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be prayer cards and a QR code to accompany the Peace Pole. Some type of reception is being planned to take place following the 9:00am Mass. The

Mass is expected to take more time than normal. Fr. Chris informed Council members that there would be no 11:00am Mass on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Martha also noted that Common Grounds will be cancelled. Jim W. plans to begin posting Jubilee Year materials in December. It is also expected that a committee will be formed to facilitate Jubilee events throughout the year.

*Parishioner Feedback:* A concern was raised by Martha that involves the Adoration Chapel. She and others have noted people are cutting through the chapel before and after Mass likely as a shortcut to the parking lot. This practice is disturbing to those who have signed up for adoration time during Mass, and it is disrespectful to the Eucharist. More discussion is needed on this matter, and we should find some way of improving this situation.

Jim Y. and Jon reported there has not been any significant feedback from parishioners following 9:00am Sunday Masses. Jim Y. and Jon are passing out Bulletins as a way of making at least minimal contact with parishioners. This did raise discussion regarding the proper role of the ushers. The use of different colored name badges was mentioned as a way to differentiate Pastoral Council members from ushers. All agreed a greater focus on the appropriate role of our ushers is needed.

### **Parish Manager's Report – Jim Wren**

Jim W. will be away from the Parish due to a family issue December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 16<sup>th</sup>. Alma will be the designated main contact during this time.

All were reminded that the budgeting process for Sacred Heart Church will begin again in January 2025. Everyone will be kept informed.

Jim W. distributed a handout describing Sacred Heart's Advent Mission that will take place Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> through Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The topics, all focused on the Eucharist, will be:

December 1<sup>st</sup>: The Real Presence

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Food for the Journey

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: The Great Amen

Our presenter will be Patrick Sullivan from Canada.

The celebration of the Immaculate Conception has been moved to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> this year (not on December 8<sup>th</sup>) and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day will be December 12<sup>th</sup> and information regarding the celebration will be distributed to the entire parish community. Details of the celebration including events were shared.

The Diocesan Compliance Assessment that was done for Sacred Heart Parish has been completed and Jim W. has been able to obtain a copy. A few very minor issues were noted. Overall, it was a very good report. All responses have been completed and submitted.

Sacred Heart is in the process of changing its banking relationship to Notre Dame Federal Credit Union located in Phoenix. It will have lower costs and improved service. The feedback received from other Arizona parishes that have made the move has been very positive.

Books on the subject of prayer have been selected as this year's Christmas gift.

Christmas decorations for the Church exterior are to be completed before the City of Prescott Christmas Parade on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Church interior decorations will be done starting on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pastor's Report – Fr. Chris**

Fr. Chris described some of the other Christmas preparations that are ongoing. He plans to determine if there is interest in a pilgrimage during the 2025 Jubilee Year. It should be a very exciting time in Rome. If this is to take place, it should be bilingual so the entire parish community may participate.

Advent Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements have been made so as many as seven additional priests will be present. It is possible that the start time will be at 5:00pm.

Projects to be undertaken at Sacred Heart were discussed. Fr. Chris would like the updating of the confessionals to include the addition of sound proofing. The current level of sound proofing is not adequate. Improvements also need to be made in the appearance of the former Sacristy to include the hiding of wiring etc.

There was discussion of issues associated with people staying in the Church following Saturday evening Mass. The possible need to change the time when the Church is closed and locked for the evening was explored. Some suggestions were made including closing the Church earlier or possibly closing the downstairs area at an earlier time. We do have a problem here and more thought and discussion are needed.

**Next Meeting:**

Our next regularly scheduled meeting would fall on the day following Christmas. Therefore, the December meeting of the Pastoral Council is cancelled. The date of the next Pastoral Council meeting will be Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00pm. The meeting will be held in the St. Anthony Claret Room.

**Closing Blessing:**

The closing blessing was given by Fr. Chris. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm.