

***St. Christopher's Parish Pastoral Council***  
***December 6, 2011***

**Attendees:** Mark Schilling, Jim Shafer, Katie Lewis, Larry Houck, Norm Vitrano, Eileen Smithmyer, Kate Tumulty

Jim Shafer called the meeting to order and Father Jennings offered the opening prayer.

The minutes from the 10-11 meeting were approved as circulated.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Liturgy**-Norm Vitrano reported that the Liturgy Committee met on 10/21/11. Both the Veteran's Day & Memorial services for deceased parishioners went well. Mary Yealdhall has prepped parishioners regarding musical responses for the new liturgy. A new acclamation will be introduced each season. Thirteen EM's need certification and Norm is in the process of notifying them. He is planning a liturgical conference for spring. Larry Houck reported that our confirmation candidates are helping as ushers at the 9am & 11am Sunday Masses. This has been very successful He expressed his thanks for their help. It was suggested that thanks could be expressed in the bulletin. Jim Shafer volunteered to follow-up.

**Christian Formation** –Katie Lewis announced that the annual Christmas pageant is this Sunday. IN November, 70 youth helped with Thanksgiving dinner for the needy. Nearly a third had participated in this activity in 2010 and returned for 2011.

The pre-school's "Cookies with Santa" event was fun and raised \$1690.

The scholastic book fair went well but next time would benefit by more advanced notice.

The Youth Group is having a dance on 12/17. Bridgitte Bailey is the group's moderator and between 15-30 teens regularly attend the meeting on Sundays following 5pm Mass.

**Social Concerns**–Jim Shafer reported that Outreach activities are ongoing and that a team is handling all aspects effectively & efficiently.

Our Haven homeless shelter opened on 12/1/11. In addition to this group oriented shelter housed in the Methodist Church there is a home on State Street that is designed to shelter a family (rent free) for several months provided certain specifications are met.

**Family Life**-No report.

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**Publicity-** It was noted that there was nice coverage of the pre-school's "Cookies with Santa". In addition Father Jennings picture as Chaplain to the Sheriffs Dept appeared in the "Manhunt on Kent Island" article.

**Building Committee-**Joe Scharnus is readying the church and facilities for Christmas. An announcement about decorating will be made via the bulletin.

**Nominating Committee-**No report.

**Suggestions-**None received.

**NEW BUSINESS-**Eileen Smithmyer asked what the Council was doing to "evaluate and improve" parish life as this is mentioned in our role description.

Council members discussed issues that were addressed in the past. Kate Tumulty described the evaluation process that was implemented last spring for various parish organizations and suggested that the process become an annual exercise to improved dialog and assess needs. Council members agreed and further discussion will take place at the January meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.  
Jim Shaffer offered the closing prayer.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Jan. 3 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Tumulty  
Secretary