



## Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2024

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at [7:00pm](#) by GK Jim McCarry
2. Opening Prayer – Mission of My Life Prayer led by Tom Lopez
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by GK Jim McCarry
4. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting
  - Motion to approve February meeting minutes with no revisions, **PASSED** unanimously.
5. Chaplain's Message (Fr. Gerlach)
  - Not present.
6. Grand Knight's Report
  - GK Jim McCarry contacted the CYO athletic director about a service project to clean up SSJ.
  - 8-10 gentlemen from the parish attended Man Up Philly. Very inspiring event! 1500 men attended. Mike Schmidt was one of the speakers.
  - If you have not already, please consider signing up for the McGivney Guild at [fathermcgivney.org](http://fathermcgivney.org).
  - A card was passed around from the IHM sisters thanking us for the Christmas Party.
7. Financial Report (Charlie DiValerio)
  - Ending Bank Balance: \$31,639
  - Available Cash: \$28,368
  - Total Assets: \$46,976
  - Motion to approve February Treasurer's Report, **PASSED** unanimously.
8. Membership Report (Jim Bushong)
  - No new membership applications as of the meeting.
  - Council is still looking into establishing a degree team. We will need a team of 5 Knights to volunteer to join the degree team. If interested, please reach out to GK Jim McCarry.
  - Motion to accept the membership of Dan Mankowski, **PASSED** unanimously.
    - He was a knight several decades ago and Supreme could not find his information. He may need to join as a new member.

## 9. Other Reports

- Faith In Action Programs – Program Director (Gordon Jefferes)
  - Faith (Tom Lopez)
    - 2/25 Rosary led by the SSJ Youth Group. It was well attended with about 20-30 people (20 in person, rest on livestream).
    - 3/19 Feast of St. Joseph - Mass available at 6:45am and 9am.
    - 4/5 Two Hearts Devotion from 7:30pm-2am Confessions, Mass, Devotionals
    - 4/5 First Friday at Malvern Retreat House
    - 4/6 First Saturday Fatima Rosary after the 9am mass.
    - 4/21 Rosary after the 6pm mass.
  - Family (Paul Bellino)
    - Family of the Month - We need recommendations for families who are worthy of the honor. Please reach out to Paul with any nominees.
  - Community (Joe Gothie)
    - We have previously allocated \$1000 for Fr. Gerlach's 2023 Christmas gifts/books for the parish (which were already fully covered by Karen Galese). Joe proposed to reallocate the \$1000 to the school's Gatsby fundraiser gala.
      - Motion to approve, **PASSED** unanimously.
  - Life (Vince Strate)
    - Our Poor Man's Supper on 2/29 was a success! Vince thanked all the brothers who came out to support and help. We had about 50 faithful attending and are already thinking about/planning next year's event.
    - Pro Life Workshop was held this past Saturday in the Meehan Center. Many Life Directors were there and shared many ideas.
    - Please join the SSJ Community in praying the Rosary in front of Planned Parenthood in West Chester. Our special Parish Day is Thursday March 21 from 8 am to 5 pm. You can sign up for an hour of prayer and meditation in the Narthex. Contact Dave Owsik at 610-416-3676 or davidowsik@verizon.net for additional information.
    - In order to have clearance to work with the children at our parish, it's necessary to complete a training. This is a good starting point to the paperwork needed: Protecting God's Children Safe Environment Training Tuesday, April at 6pm. Sign-In at 5:45 pm Saints Simon and Jude in The Meehan Center. Pre-Registration is a MUST! Please go to: [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). For questions, contact Saints Simon and Jude Safe Environment Coordinator Candy Savarese [csavarese@simonandjude.org](mailto:csavarese@simonandjude.org) or 610.696.3624.
    - Genesis Pro Life is asking for a new ultrasound machine. We have \$7000 set aside for an ultrasound machine. We are working with our contact to hopefully purchase the ultrasound machine.
- Committees:
  - Retention Committee (Gordon Jefferes)
    - Not present.
  - Fundraising Committee (Paul Bellino)
    - Paul passed around some ideas for evangelization from the Brainstorming Team including the St. Luke's Production DVDs that we can play in the parish. A DVD costs \$35.

- Italian Night is in the infancy state of planning. We need a caterer.
    - Brainstorming Team will continue to meet and come up with ideas for evangelization.
    - Bingo was very successful with about 150 people in attendance. \$2300 in revenue for the Council.
  - Health Services (Jay Harter)
    - CPR Training: Hershey's Mill has a program for CPR training for \$15. The amount will be refunded upon completion. Only 30 people can sign up.
    - GK Jim McCarry attended a similar program for \$40 that covered CPR for Adults and Infants, AED, and choking. Jim will pass the information along to Jay to look into scheduling in the future.
  - Social (John Ellis)
    - Not present.
- Fourth Degree (Gordon Jefferes)
  - 4/1 Next 4th Degree Meeting
  - 4/13 Past Faithful Navigator Testimonial Dinner at Schuyler. Please check the 4th Degree website to register for the dinner.
- Insurance Agent (Matt Doettger)
  - Not present.
- District Deputy (Frank Bruno)
  - Membership: 4 for the year, 2 more left.
  - State Caucus: 3/24 in Philadelphia. Nominations for the State Warden.
  - State Convention: 4/26-4/28 at the KOP Crowne Plaza.
  - Fraternal Benefit Seminars: Completed with 17 attendees over 3 events
  - We already have the Columbian Award for the year. We need 2 more new members for Star Council.
  - State Deputy Michael Kish attended the meeting and spoke to the council.
    - The State Deputy presented DD Frank Bruno with the award for Star District (4/5 Star Councils in the district).
- Trustees' Report
  - Officer nominations will take place during the April Council Meeting. May Council Meeting will be the election of officers. For those interested, descriptions of each officer position are available on the council website.

#### 10. Unfinished Business

- Choir will vote on the choir robes after Easter. If they do not vote in favor of the robes, the new choir books come out to roughly the same price. Should have an update next meeting.

#### 11. New Business

- Please consider joining the parish in praying the rosary outside Planned Parenthood on Thursday. GK Jim McCarry plans on being there at around 10:45am.
- 9am mass has a few rows filled with college students. Paul spoke with one of them and he explained that they are members of the Neumann Center at West Chester. They are also FOCUS ministers for the campus hoping to inspire students on campus. They are raising \$3300 for a mission trip to Michigan. We helped this group go to Mexico last year with a \$500 donation. We will discuss at a future meeting how we can help.
- Appalatian Service project teams have been formed and are looking for more people to join. The trip will be in June this year. We already have funds allocated for this.

12. Good of the Order

- Additions to the Council's prayer list were as follows:
  - Jerry Bushong (Jim's Brother)
  - Jean Ellis
  - Joe Gothie's Parents
  - Gordon Jefferes (recovery from knee surgery)
  - Margaret Mary Doane (Sr. Mary Agnes' sister who is in hospice care)
  - Robert Rae (deceased)
  - Past DD Jack Gilmore (deceased)
  - Dom Golato
  - Anthony Luchessi

13. Lecturer Reflection (Tom Lopez)

- Our seminarian Brandon spoke to the council about his upbringing and journey to the priesthood. He studied Theology at Duquesne and discerned the call to the priesthood. He moved to Philadelphia and enrolled at St. Charles Seminary in 2022. He is currently in Pre-Theology 1. He is currently working with an organization to help with his student debt. He thanked the council for giving to seminarians in the past. Please continue to pray for vocations.

14. Grand Knight Reflection (Jim McCarry)

15. Closing Prayer (Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney)

- Led by Tom Lopez

16. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.