

Parish Ministry Council Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2025 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Present: Father Yesalonia, Laura De Boisblanc, Maria Fuentes, Maureen Fullam, Adele Gallo, Janet Lam, Emily Lowe, Liz Martucci, Kevin McKeever, Anne Melanson, Karen Milton, Hector Montoya, Cynthia-Marie O'Brien, Jacques Torchon

Opening Prayer

Father Yesalonia led the opening prayers.

Review of the December 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Fr. Yesalonia asked the council members to present any necessary changes to the draft minutes from the December 16, 2024 Parish Ministry Council meeting. The minutes were approved and will be posted on the parish website.

Ministry Reports

Lay Ministers Enrichment —Jacques Torchon

- The Hospitality Ministry welcomed two new members.
- The 7:30 PM Mass continues to need Hospitality Ministers.
- Hospitality Ministers are needed for the Holy Week and Easter Sunday Masses. It was suggested that the presiders make an appeal to the congregation for volunteers at the end of Sunday Masses.

Children's Liturgy and Women's Faith Group—Adele Gallo

- There is a consistent number of children attending the 9:30 a.m. Mass and participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- The Women's Faith Group continues to have a basic group of 9-12 members, with a few additional women occasionally attending the meetings.

Meeting Christ in Prayer—Cynthia-Marie O'Brien

- MCIP is using a new on-line form for registration which appears to be successful.
- Jackie Buffon is facilitating the MCIP sessions.

LGBT Catholics & Friends—Janet Lam & Hector Montoya

- The January 25 visit to the Mother Cabrini Shrine was well attended.
- The Ministry is working with MCIP on a collaborative event. It is looking for opportunities to work with other ministries, such as ISJ, the Music Ministry, and the Parish Art Show, as well.
- Spring/Summer 2025 – BBQ honoring Bruce Rameker, former co-chair of the LGBT Ministry, for his leadership and contributions. All ministries are invited to attend.
- LGBT youth face many challenges when coming out to their families. With this, the ministry is drafting a letter to be distributed at St. Ignatius, as well as other parishes, advising families of the importance of supporting LGBT youth. It was suggested that

the letter be tied to a significant time for the LGBT community, such as Pride Sunday or World Aids Day.

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors—Maria Fuentes

- Staffing for the Triduum and Easter Sunday Masses is underway. EMs and lectors have been asked to submit their availability by March 17.
- There continues to be an issue with EMs and lectors failing to appear to their assigned Masses.

Music Ministry—Kevin McKeever

- Mar. 16 - The Parish Community Choir will sing at Solemn Mass.
- Mar. 30 - Anna Lapwood organ recital. The performance has sold out at its maximum capacity of 1,002 attendees.
- Apr. 18 - The Parish Community Choir will sing at the Three Hours Devotion on Good Friday.
- May 4 - Annual Sing and Celebrate Concert.
- May 11 – Festival Mass. The Wallace Hall Choir and Choir of St. Ignatius will perform.
- May 18 - The Parish Community Choir will sing at the Solemn Mass.

Interfaith Ministry—Kevin McKeever (Substitute for Simone Vinocour McKeever)

- The January program on the Sikh religion was well attended. A visit to a Sikh Gurdwara in Queens is being planned.
- The ministry hosted over 250 guests for its Iftar Dinner on March 7, with Cardinal Dolan in attendance as well. Emily Lowe, chair of the Family Ministry, and a member of Peace Island Institute spoke on faith and its impact on family life. The next Iftar Dinner is planned for February 27, 2026.
- Mar. 12 – Lenten Prayer Service at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral.
- June 2025 - Picnic with Peace Islands.

Family Ministry—Emily Lowe

- Both the January 26 Festival Mass and the February 8 Pizza and Bingo Night drew large crowds.
- Family Ministry handed out “Lenten passports” designed to help children focus on an act of kindness for each week of Lent. On Sundays, the children who have performed the act of kindness will have their Lenten passport stamped. Those who collect all the stamps will receive a special treat at the Family Mass on Easter Sunday.

Ignatian Social Justice—Laura De Boisblanc

- The "We Walk with Those in Need" Implementation Committee is hosting a Week of Service in collaboration with several other parish ministries, the Girl Scouts, and outside organizations. All are invited to participate in the upcoming events:
 - Mar. 12 - Greek Orthodox Lenten Prayer Service co-sponsored by the Interfaith Ministry.

- Mar 13 - SVdP Food Drive.
- Mar 15 - Stations of the Cross for Migrants and Panel Discussion, hosted by ISJ.
- Mar 15 - SVdP Homeless Outreach.
- Mar. 16 - Homeless Awareness for Kids/Service Project, co-sponsored by ISJ, the Girl Scouts, Family Ministry.
- Mar. 25 - 2025 JRS/USA Advocacy Day.
- Mar. 31 - "The Long Pilgrimage of Dorothy Day" lecture by Robert Ellsberg.
- Apr. 28 - ISJ cocktail party with Temple Shaaray Tefila.
- May 5 - Presentation by Michael Connolly of the Harlem Family Institute.

Compassionate Care & Emmaus Group—Anne Melanson (Substitute for Kathy Murnion)

- Kathy Murnion is not here as she is conducting the Emmaus Bereavement session this evening. The new Emmaus session began last week on March 3.
- Ashes were distributed to 92 residents and staff at East Side Rehabilitation by six members of the Compassionate Care Ministry. Ashes also distributed at Vista on Fifth, an assisted care facility.
- Members of the Compassionate Care Ministry conduct a Communion service every Sunday at Vista. Clergy visits Vista every other month for Confessions and Communion.
- Mar. 29 - The Liturgy of Anointing during the 5:30 PM Mass.

RCIA—Maureen Fullam

- March 9 was the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion for RCIA candidates.
- RCIA candidates are entering into the final phase of their preparation for their reception into the Church during the Easter Vigil on April 19.
- Maria Fuentes has volunteered to coordinate the post-Easter Vigil reception for the RCIA candidates and their families.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul—Liz Martucci

- The SVdP Blood Drive on Sunday had a good turnout. 69 individuals registered to give blood, and 60 pints of blood were collected, potentially saving 180 lives.
- SVdP continues to receive requests for financial assistance, primarily for rent arrears to prevent eviction. Many of those in crisis have complex situations, such as mental and physical health problems and legal issues.
- The Lenten food drive continues until April 6. Donations will benefit the Church of the Ascension in Harlem.
- Mar. 15—Homeless outreach service project. This is in conjunction with ISJ and the Lenten Week of Service.

Circle of Friends—Karen Milton

- Mar. 11 - "From Famine to Fifth Avenue: An Irish Journey of Resilience". Over 100 people have registered.

- Apr. 8 - Program on the Titanic.
- May 13 - Program on Michelangelo's David.
- June 17 - Final program of the 2024-2025 season.

Pastor's Report

The Pastor shared the following comments:

- To provide more opportunities for parishioners to socialize, there will be a Sock Hop on May 17. Marguerite and Tony Luccarelli have agreed to co-chair the event and will be forming a committee for assistance.
- The parish will be assigned a newly ordained Jesuit priest for a one-year residency.
- Fr. Yesalonia is hiring for a new position, Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality.

Other Business

- John Mancuso, a member of the Parish Council, spoke about a new initiative to promote the parish through video testimonials. The 60-90 second clips will feature parishioners responding to the question "what inspires you to worship at St. Ignatius Loyola?" The videos will then be posted on the St. Ignatius website.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Yesalonia offered the closing prayer at 8:20 p.m.