

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024

The evening began at 6:30pm with a very interesting and informative presentation by Easthampton Fire Chief, Chris Norris, on safety in the home. The presentation and discussion were attended by 24 members of the parish. The Fire Chief passed out free File of Life pockets and cards to all in attendance.

At 7:20 pm the Women's Club members regrouped around meeting tables and the meeting was called to order by President, Anita Ulshoeffer as she offered an opening prayer. There were 24 members in attendance.

Installation of Officers: Anita announced that the planned installation of the Co-Treasurers will be rescheduled due to a delayed email communication.

Secretary's Report: Barbara Rejniak distributed copies of the Minutes of the September 30, 2024 meeting to all in attendance. A motion was made and accepted to suspend the reading of the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Since we had just met three weeks ago, there was no new banking information to share. Dee Conway did report that the club currently has 55 total members. Of those, there are 45 who have paid dues. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

Christmas Gifts for Priests and Staff: Dee Conway reported that in 2023 the club gave the following:

- A \$200 donation to the Take & Eat program in honor of the rectory staff
- \$35 gift card to Deacon Channel for Atkins Market
- \$100 gift card to Fr. Sliwa for Nini's Restaurant
- \$50 gift cards to Fr. Pease and Fr. Roux for Nini's Restaurant
- \$100 gift card for the office staff to Tandem Bagels

After discussion, it was decided to repeat these same gifts for the priests and staff this year although Dee will find an alternate gift card location for Deacon Channel if she finds that he does not prefer Atkins.

Holy Rosary Sodality Christmas Party: Helen Gratkowski reported that the party will be held at Bluebonnet Diner again this year with a choice of three entrees when ordering tickets. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children's entrees. The deadline to purchase tickets is November 17. Helen said that Christmas Carols are sung during the party and door prizes are awarded. She added that winners of door prizes are invited to bring a gift the following year to be used as a door prize. Barbara Rejniak will create flyers for Helen to post around the church.

Bus Trip: A bus trip to the Christmas Light display at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Attleboro, MA will occur on Thursday, December 12. Tickets are \$129 which includes the bus transportation to and from Our Lady of the Valley, entrance to the shrine, a 4pm Mass at La Salette, and a family style lunch at Wright's Farm Restaurant in Rhode Island. Participants can choose to stay on the bus as it drives through the display or they may choose to walk through the site.

Bethlehem House: Linda Rzeszutek invited members to take a look at the Bethlehem House baby baskets on display to see what sort of supplies are given to mothers in need. Bethlehem House needs more volunteer helpers and Linda had a signup sheet available.

Wreath Raffle Fundraiser: Mary Grace reported that they were still in need of volunteers to sell raffle tickets after some Masses November 16-17. Chairpersons Jean Graney and Alice Zedonis reported that they also need to get the approval of Fr. Ryan to sell tickets in the vestibule at the main entrance to the church. Anita Ulshoeffer will ask Katie Sadakierski to add the tickets sales and wreath raffle dates to the parish online calendar.

Bake Sale: Barbara Rejniak recruited a few more helpers to make sure the Thanksgiving bake sale will be well covered while she is absent that entire week. She also recruited three volunteers to make reminder calls to all club members the week prior to the bake sale.

New business

Lawn sign: Alice Zedonis asked if the club would be willing to purchase a lawn sign to be put on the parish lawn near the elevator entrance, as needed, so people can see a message from their cars if the elevator is out of order. She said that the cost would be about \$15. All voted in favor of purchasing such a sign.

Extra Christmas cards to donate: Alice also asked club members to send to her any extra Christmas cards they may have so they can be sent to Take & Eat clients with their Christmas meals.

Next meeting: Anita Ulshoeffer reminded all that the next club meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 18 at 2pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara E. Rejniak, Secretary