

## **Old St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council: Rationale, Role of Elected Council Members, Election Schedule for This Year**

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia encourages every parish to have a Parish Pastoral Council that will “foster full participation of the entire parish in the pastoral life and mission of the parish and of the Universal Church.” The Old Saint Joseph’s Parish Council currently consists of eleven members, including the Pastor, one ex officio member from the Parish Finance Council, and six elected members.

The Pastoral Council advises the pastor, assists in pastoral planning, and represents the rest of the community to the Pastor. Pastoral planning may include developing a long-term pastoral plan and addressing our community’s organization and programs. The Pastoral Council communicates with and cooperates with the Finance Council as needed.

The Pastoral Council meets monthly except for one month in summer and meets in extraordinary sessions as needed. In addition, members seek out parishioners’ opinions, ideas and increased participation through personal outreach and attendance at parish-wide listening sessions. Members may be asked to communicate with parish ministries or committees, or with appropriate representatives of other organizations and ministries. Council members should expect to devote an average of two hours per week to Council activities. All seats to be filled or reelected will be for a term of three years, starting June 1, 2024, renewable once.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER**

- Two years registered as a parish member
- Regular mass attendance
- Active participation in a parish ministry, committee, and/or community. The bulletin lists most parish ministries, communities, and committees that can serve as a reference.
- Candidate nomination comes from a fellow parishioner. Self-nominations are not permitted.

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS**

- Two seats are expired; of these, one incumbent will stand for reelection and one seat has become open. In addition, two Council members have resigned. Therefore, we will vote for four seats this year.
- Nominations will open on April 7 and close on April 21.
- To nominate, please first consult that person to make sure they are willing to stand for election.
- Please submit the person’s full name and either phone number or email address, to the Parish Pastoral Council’s email address, [osjpc@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:osjpc@oldstjoseph.org).
- Paper nomination forms, available in the back of the church beginning on April 7, can be filled out and left in the collection basket or in the parish office.
- Nominees will be vetted for minimum qualifications and ballots prepared. Each candidate is asked to submit a photo and a brief election statement for publication in Bulletin and website.
- Voting begins on May 5 and will close on May 19.
- Every registered parishioner eighteen years of age or older is eligible to vote.
- Voting is online at the parish website; a security code procedure is explained at the web site.

- Assistance with voting by computer and cell phone will be available in Barbelin Hall on Sundays May 5 and 19.
- Election results will be announced on the Parish website as soon as possible thereafter.