

Church of St Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes February 4, 2020 - 6:30 pm - Zoom

Attending: Fr Paul Kammen-Pastor, Ann Volkert-Chair, Jon Guden-Vice Chair, Fay Connors, Paul Germann, Mike Vanderheyden, Ron Sailer, John Murphy, Pat Croke, Randy Haney-Administrator

Excused: John Wollersheim – Trustee

Opening Prayer

John Murphy

1. Communications w/Staff & Committee Updates

Fay- Mychael Schilmoeller is the new Director of Parish Life; The Knights of Columbus have their Spaghetti Dinner this Saturday, February 6th. People can place orders online.

Ron- Bill said not much is new. Just a reminder that Ash Wednesday is the 17th. There will be services at 8:30am (school) and 5:00pm and 7:00pm. Ashes will be sprinkled over people rather than spread on their forehead. Stations of the Cross will be every Friday during Lent at 5:30, and at 12:00 noon on Good Friday.

Pat- Deacon Gordon is getting his feet wet in the new position and learning about the ministries and how things have been operating.

Paul- It is Catholic Schools Week. The big fund raiser is the Raffle. Tickets are being sold now. Ticket sales have been very strong. If people want them Paul is selling them and they can be purchased at the church office as well.

Randy- Kindergarten is completely full. More importantly there is a waiting list for next year for this grade. Last year, at this time, there were no registrations. There are currently 26 students. Thoughts are being considered to add a second classroom. No decisions have been made. There would need to be a total of at least 36-40 registrations to consider the second classroom. There are 40 new families in the church, which is very good. The school is doing very well.

2. New Business

The Lay Advisory Board in meeting with the Auxiliary Bishop on February 7th. No agenda has been published at this time.

The book "The Church in Crisis" is available to all Council members and copies are at the front desk in the parish office. The council members are asked to have it read by the March meeting.

3. Old Business

Strategic Plan Update and Discussion: Fay forwarded a communication received from Julie Meyer with the Archdiocese outlining a number of things they are willing to provide to the parish in an effort to meet the requests of the Strategic Planning

Committee, to help align the committee efforts to structure a new plan that is inclusive of information obtained from the coming Fall Synod small group discussions; archdiocesan preferences, and most importantly the wishes of St. Joseph's parishioners at large.

The implementation of the Synod Discussion groups is headed by Deacon Gordon and Joannie Somes. It is hoped that participation within the groups will come from all ministries and parish groups along with non-practicing parishioners.

Ann wondered if the "Word on Fire Engage" program would be beneficial in helping the parish as a means to help foster increased engagement by a larger percentage of the parish population. Randy suggested that with two new members of the parish staff and the need for them to become acclimated to their new positions, that any enacting of a major initiative would not be wise at this time.

4. Budget Update

Randy indicated that overall the parish is doing well all things considered. Effective December month end, Sunday offerings are down by -\$41.1K compared to budget. However, the net for the church compared to budget is down -\$31.1K compared to budget. When combining school, pre-school and church the net is +\$79.4K better than budget. This is primarily due to a significant number of COVID related grants from a variety of sources (state, federal, CSCOE). The cemetery and capital campaign are holding close to their respective budgets. Note that they do not impact the operating budget of the church, school or pre-school.

The Solar panels are not operational yet. Excel Energy is now in its fourth shutdown with the system as it works to make the system operational. Randy is speculating that it may be operational by the end of February.

He also suggested that council members should attend or participate in a program they would not normally attend (concert, sporting events, etc.) to get a feeling of the "vibe" of parishioners involved with these activities.

Closing Prayer

John Murphy

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Prayerfully submitted,

Mike Vanderheyden
Recorder