

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

March 7, 2016

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Present: Rev. Peter Worn, Julie Brissette, John Ferguson, David Kaminski, William Mathewson, Lorraine Pigula, Susan Ross, Heidi Stemkoski, John Sullivan, Al Thompson, Robert Vertucci, Nancy Light

Excused: Karen Hopkins, Dennis McGough, Carmella Dalton, Hannah Humphrey, Grainger Sasso

Guests: none at this meeting

At 6:32 pm, Vice President Susan Ross called the Parish Council meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: Will Mathewson

Approve Parish Council minutes

Susan Ross called for a motion to approve the January 25, 2016 Parish Council minutes.

Motion made by Julie Brissette; second by Bob Vertucci; unanimously approved as written.

Parish Committee Reports

Liturgy Committee – Al Thompson

Meeting held 2/8 -committee discussed "Ministry of Parish Liturgy"

Committee feels St Joseph's is a very welcoming parish

Projects considered to engage parishioners:

- Making banners and visibility of Food Pantry ministry
- Music ministry during Mass is not visible to much of the congregation- discussed risers.
- Discussed installing a railing for the safety of those going up steps to the altar
- Lenten books seemed to be well received by parishioners

Daylight Savings time begins 3/13

"Lights On" Reconciliation: 3/21, 4-7 PM

Upcoming liturgies:

- Palm Sunday - procession into the church depending on weather
- Holy Week and Easter Sunday (Triduum)
- 1st Communion: 5/7 & 8
- Confirmation: 5/22
- Memorial Day Mass: 5/29

Facilities – John Ferguson

- Last meeting was 1/19 which was discussed at last Parish Council meeting
- Next meeting will be 3/22
- Dishwasher in Parish Center was replaced: \$6000, included plumbing, electrical, and appliance
- Parish Center roof had issues during last rain storm. It is one of the items to be fixed when committee determines priorities. John Brace cleared the roof drains for temporary fix. Contractors will be asked for estimates.

RCIA – Susan Ross

- We have five candidates
- 2/14 they went to the Rite of Election at Cathedral
- 2/21 they went the Rite of Recognition at Cathedral
- 2/28 they were introduced to the parish at the 1st scrutiny
- They went to the Samaritan Center to serve breakfast
- They have participated in the sacrament of Reconciliation
- They are all on track to be fully received into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil

Old Business

PCA Update – Susan Ross

Follow up: January meeting parishioner feedback

- The next PCA meeting will be 3/9 at 7 pm at Holy Family
- There was a letter in the bulletin from the Bishop accepting the pairing of (St Joseph's and Holy Family), (St Francis Xavier in Marcellus and St Michael's on Onondaga Hill), and (St Mary's in Skaneateles and St Patrick's in Jordan)
- These parishes will remain separate but collaborate to be sure parishioners have access to their spiritual needs
- It still remains to be seen what the parish pairs will do together and how it will be achieved
- The Syracuse Diocese has seen a reduction in priests from 443 to the present 113

Share parishioner comments on PCA bulletin insert

- The St Joseph's men's group has joined with the Holy Family's men's group on Saturday mornings at Holy Family. All participants seem enthusiastic about the joint meetings; meeting at 7 am, Mass at 8 am.
- The Mass has several St Joseph's parishioners in attendance
- Communication of how the parishes will collaborate is very important to keep parishioners informed

New Business

Nomination process to recruit 4 new Parish Council members – Julie Brissette

- There will be four openings for 3-year terms, beginning in September
- There will be a notice in the bulletin asking for interested persons to submit their name to Julie Brissette and/or Bob Vertucci by April 30
- Those interested will be asked to submit a written bio/experience to the committee which will be distributed to Parish Council members
- Voting can be done in May or June at regularly scheduled Parish Council meetings

Nominating committee members – Julie Brissette

Julie Brissette and Bob Vertucci

Begin a discussion of 2016-17 officers – Susan Ross

- Current slate of officers are rotating off Parish Council
- Dennis McGough (president), Karen Hopkins (recorder), and Susan Ross (Vice President) are all rotating off the Council in June
- New officers will need to be elected in May
- Consider having President be a member that has two more years to serve for continuity
- The other two positions may come from the members who remain on the Council
- It is preferred that not all the officers rotate off in the same year

Parishioner Feedback Received

1. Has there been discussion about general safety in the church? While there are safety features built into the church facilities for fire, etc., it may be advise able to have a safety plan in place to ensure everyone's well-being in case of any emergency. Perhaps ask local police to give some ideas to ensure protection in all situations.
2. Feedback from recent funerals is that the music ministry is excellent and much appreciated by the families of the deceased. We are very present to the mourners, people are grateful. A portable lectern is now used so the readers and priest are closer to the people.
3. Regarding Religious Education: Suggestion that if a parent of a religious education student volunteers to teach a class then perhaps, as a thank you, the fee could be waived for their child.
4. Continuing discussion about communication to the parish. While we have hard signs near the road now, is it possible to have a permanent electronic sign with rolling banner/information that can be changed via phone or other electronic device by a responsible staff member. Bill Mathewson can look into cost.
5. The website has been updated a bit. Parish Council minutes are available online now. Put reminder in bulletin that they can be seen there.
6. Since the minutes have to be voted on and approved before they can be added to the website and since Parish Council meets only every other month - is it possible to distribute and vote on minutes electronically?
7. There will be a new look to the website in the near future.
8. Several issues from the last Parish Council meeting have been addressed; other issues will be addressed when a resolution has been determined.

Pastor's Comments

Parish retreat: March 12-14

- Maryknoll priest, brother and deacon will present
- Theme will be "Mercy"
- Presentations on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday evenings
- Shortened version at 9:30 am the following days

Director of Faith Formation search

- Position has been posted in the bulletin
- A couple of people have inquired
- Final specifications of the job are still to be determined after candidates are finalized. It is advertised as 10 month, 30 hours per week but that may be flexible or change depending on the candidates
- Present employees are flexible and very willing to help with this transition
- Besides coordinating it will require some amount of catechist recruitment
- This usually happens when there is a change at the helm

Cathedral reconstruction project

- There is no parish assessment
- The Diocese wants to raise \$10M for work now—for the buildings , for outreach, and arts, and another \$8M for endowment funds for building outreach and the arts
- Renovation of Cathedral and rectory—electrical work—heating system –roof walls---last time was 1959
- A targeted number of people will be asked for large gifts, there will be area receptions, and big Hope Appeal givers will be solicited
- Then there will be 3 "in-pew" solicitations in all parishes

Prayer Leader

May 2016 meeting: Susan Ross

Closing Prayer: Will Mathewson

At 7:35 p.m., the Parish Council meeting was adjourned. Motion by Bob Vertucci; second by Susan Ross

Prepared by,

Lorraine Pigula
Member, Parish Council

NEXT MEETING: May 9, 2016; 6:30 pm