

St. Joseph's Parish Council January 28, 2019

Present: Fr. Peter Worn, Ken Schrank, Debbie Moore, Eileen Dailey, Sr. Ellen Lindsley, Terri Ferguson, Theresa Williams, Kristen Bealer, Mike Filipski, Tom Kanaley, Dottie Hetnar, Jamie Klaben. Lou Lamphear, Barb Shepard, Charlene Hart

Excused: Nancy Light, Ian Sylcox, Anastasia Mello

Opening Prayer: Lou Lamphear

Debbie Moore called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Tom Kanaley moved and Charlene Hart seconded that the minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting be approved. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Parish Committee Reports: The parish committee reports were distributed in advance of the meeting and were reviewed by the Council. A summary of the items discussed is as follows:

Finance Committee:

- Ken Schrank, Finance Committee member, explained that, although this year's budget estimated an income figure lower than the previous year, we are still not meeting budget
- The net continues to look favorable; but, as noted at the last meeting, this is misleading because there is still an unfilled budgeted position
- Bright spot- \$15,000 was budgeted for bequests and year-to-date we have received \$13,000. Perhaps this is a positive response to the bulletin article suggesting people consider remembering the church in their will.
- Exceeded the Hope Appeal assessment by \$6000. \$3000 will be returned to the Parish
- Parishioners continue to use the Capital Improvements envelope, averaging over \$3000 per month in donations.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Work is being done on the heating system in the Church and Rectory, thanks to John Ferguson and a former colleague of John's.
- Soliciting proposals to replace exterior siding and improving insulation in the Parish Center
- Outsourced snow removal and lawn care has resulted in considerable savings and as a result frees up parish staff to do more preventive maintenance
- Long term needs include parking lot repaving, replacement of the Church's 25-year-old A/C system, and replacement of the original heating equipment in the Parish Center

Liturgy:

- Lent begins March 6th - 4 masses that day
- Stations of the Cross followed by Soup Suppers will be on Wednesdays during Lent.
- Different ministries are being asked to host a Soup Supper evening. Parish Council is scheduled for March 27th. Members are asked to contact Debbie if they are able to assist that evening.
- Average Sunday attendance 779

Council members commented on the Christmas liturgies; the consensus -the music was wonderful and the Church looked beautiful.

Youth Ministry

- Planning meetings and fundraising activities continue for NCYC
- February 10th and 11th Parish Mission- *Finding Joy in the Family*
- Confirmation classes and community service projects continue

Faith Formation

- Preparations ongoing for First Communion scheduled for May 4, 2019
42 second graders and 2 older students in this year's class

Food Pantry

- New Coordinator is Linda Mahan
- Request for more volunteers has been very successful

Old Business

- Debbie thanked Council members who served as Greeters in November. The hardest Mass to fill is the 8:00. Council members responded that they felt it had been well received, easy to do and think the more we do it; the people will be more responsive. Parish Council members will be greeters again the weekends of Feb. 23 /24^h and March 23/24. Council members are asked to let Debbie know what Mass they will serve.

New Business

- Kristen Bealer met with Peter Kirk regarding the website to discuss making the site more user friendly for parishioners. Kristen also mentioned the possibility of using different software for the bulletin and developing unified mailing and email lists that could be used by the various ministries, rather than each ministry having their own lists.

Parishioner Feedback

- Pleased to see the young adults at the CYO Mass

- Difficulties continue re: parishioners' inability to hear some of the lectors and homilists from certain places in the church. We will check microphone placements and continue to address this issue.
- Positive reactions when Peter engages the children to participate in the homily
- Snowbound weekend – People really liked the 10:30 liturgy that Sunday - because of the low attendance parishioners were invited to stand around the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. Same is true at the reflective liturgies.

Pastor's Comments

- Peter has received several thank you notes and has had conversations with many parishioners regarding the recent newspaper publication of the list of abusive priests. Parishioners felt we handled this scandal well, removing signs and pictures relative to St. Joseph's. We did miss one but removed it as soon as it came to our attention.
- Peter invited Danielle Cummings, Chancellor of the Diocese, to do a presentation similar to the one that was presented at IC in Fayetteville on the abuse scandal. Hopefully she will be able to do a presentation in this region in February.
- Hope Appeal –collected \$6000.00 more than our assessment resulting in \$3000.00 coming back to the Parish.
- Only 6 weddings scheduled this year – past practice-weddings only for parishioners-reconsidering change in policy in an effort to welcome others
 - Lent - Special events – Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings; Reflective Liturgies on Tuesday evenings
 - Easter Mass Schedule
 - Easter Vigil 8:00 pm
 - Easter Sunday—8:00, 10:30 and additional Mass at 12:30 pm

Prayer Leader for next meeting: Mike Filipski

Closing Prayer

Adjournment: 7:30 pm

Next Meeting: March 11, 2019

Minutes prepared by Eileen Dailey