

## ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

March 5, 2018

**Present:** Rev. Peter Worn, Ken Shrank, Bob Vertucci, Debbie Moore, Heidi Stemkoski, Mike Filipski, Charlene Hart, Kristen Bealer, Eileen Dailey, Dotti Hetnar, John Sullivan, Jamie Klaben, Anastasia Mello (youth member)

**Excused:** Nancy Light, Lou Lamphear, Barb Shepard, Griffin Sasso (youth member)

**Guests:** None

At 6:30 pm, Bob Vertucci called the meeting to order.

**Opening Prayer:** Bob Vertucci

### Approve Parish Council Minutes

- The November and January minutes were approved electronically and sent to Tammy Abdou for distribution

### Parish Committee Reports

#### Finance

- No updates

#### Liturgy

- There were typically about 1,000 + people attending each mass, but now some masses are down, with an average of about 980 per mass since the fall.

#### Building & Grounds

- There are 3 options for repairing the kneelers – a high end, low end and middle option. It looks as though the middle option has been selected and will cost about \$23,000.

#### Youth Ministry

Confirmation:

- In Feb. we had the 2<sup>nd</sup> retreat with Otis Jennings. As usual, went very well!
- Rel Ed. sessions for both Conf. I & II are on-going
- The Conf. II classes continue to make their weekend visits to the Brady Faith Center for lesson, Mass & craft/dessert. As always, this is a great project for our youth.
- Conf. I classes will be helping to pack the Easter boxes, prep the palms for Palm Sunday and fill Easter eggs for our Food Pantry families and The Brady Center.

Teen Faith:

- Happy to report that the junior high students raised over \$3600 for Operation Walk during their Souper Bowl Event. This is the most money they have ever raised for an organization with this fundraiser.
- The junior high students made Valentine bags for the homeless. Each bag contained toiletries, a cut-out heart and scripture passage. They took the bags to John Tumino of "My Father's Kitchen" and he

distributed them when he went around on Valentine's Day. It was an awesome event. A lot of the toiletries that they provided were left over from the St. Margaret's Project of last year.

#### Juniors & Seniors:

- Continue to be the mentors to the junior high students of Teen Faith & help with teaching Faith Formation

#### St. Joe's Young Adult Ministry: (ages 21-30's)

- CYO Wine & Beer event in Jan.
- Chili Cook off this past weekend
- They are planning a Wine Tour for April
- They are planning to get more involved with some of our Human Dev. programs
- On another note: Cindy got hit with the flu at the end of Jan and into Feb and was out for almost 3 wks. She wanted to mention that Jodi Hunt did a phenomenal job covering for her in all aspects. Thank you, Jodi, for truly stepping up to the plate and making sure that our youth programs continued to run strongly and smoothly!!

#### Activities Committee:

- Chili Cook-off was a great success this past weekend!!
- 13 chefs and a crowd of about 140-150.
- Everyone had a wonderful time and left with very full "tummys!" The comments were all positive!!
- This committee does a wonderful job coordinating this event and the Harvest Fest. They are all hard workers and are on top of things. But more importantly, they all have a wonderful time together planning & executing the events. Thx to them all!

#### Faith Formation

- We just completed our last children's mass, featuring grade 6, for the year. It was well received and the 11:00 mass was well attended.
- Our last classes for Faith Formation are Sunday April 15 and Tuesday April 17. We will have completed 23 weeks of instruction.
- Living Stations of the Cross are scheduled for Friday, March 30, 2018 (Good Friday) at 8 PM in the main church. This special rendition of the Stations of the Cross, acted out by our TEENFAITH and High School students.
- First Communion will be celebrated on Saturday May, 12 at the 4:30 mass and Sunday May 13, 2018 at the 11:00 mass time. These are the two most desired mass times by the parents. We have a total of 53 candidates.

#### Pre School

- The preschool is currently beginning its last trimester of the current school year- three months left! They recently enrolled two new students for the remainder of the school year.
- They are currently registering for next year, and so far total enrollment for September is at 63 students- an excellent number considering many more months to go.
- There will be a staff development day, during which they will discuss evacuation and/or lockdown procedures.
- The school is going to try to be much more strict about keeping the doors locked WHENEVER school is in session, so please let those who use the building at times during the week know that they may find it locked more often than normal and should buzz to be let in. This is for security reasons- not to inconvenience anyone.

### Food Pantry

- Vanessa was selected to represent our geographic area at a national Food Bank meeting in Washington, DC. The group included people from all over the country. They met and did some lobbying on Capitol Hill.

### **Old Business**

#### PCA Update – Heidi Stemkoski & Peter Worn

- Possible town hall meetings to spread the word about what's being discussed at the PCA meetings.
- The next meeting is in May

#### Homebound Ministries – Eileen Dailey

- Moving along well.
- Would like to find more homebound people to serve

#### Human Development

- The group is brainstorming possibilities and priorities – refugees and immigration, response to school violence
- The group meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6 or 6:30 in the Upper Room

### **New Business**

#### Mass Schedule – (Jamie Klaben sent update via email)

- The recommendation is 8 & 10:30
- The Parish Council voted to support this recommendation

### **Share Parishioner Feedback**

- The volunteer dinner was great
- Could we get the confirmation kids to serve food at the dinner so that the staff could attend and mingle?
- The bishop's announcement has some people concerned about where money is coming from. Money is tight and we're being asked to give more. The timing is bad. People are upset that the church let the issue go on this long. Can we ask the Diocese for more talking points? Yes...
- The Stations of the Cross will be held at 5:30 at St. Joe's and at Holy Family. 5:30 is tough for people coming home from work. Could we move ours to 7?
- The parking lot was a mess during the last snow fall. We need to do a better job cleaning up before mass.
- Could we have a teaching mass?
- Could there be a communion service early Sunday morning in lieu of the 7 am mass?

### **Pastor's Comments**

- Fr. David James continues to help out a lot especially with funerals
- He and I are pretty much alternating weekend masses 4:30 and 7:00 /9 and 11 with occasional Jesuit
- I have not been able to be present at all masses due to my condition.
- Only 8 weddings for this year (18 last year—was unusual)
- Holy Week is coming together. It's not during school break this year, so hopefully more in attendance.
- Lenten daily mass attendance is down—same at Holy Family.
- Sunday Mass attendance is down—below 1000 on weekend regularly now

**Prayer Leader**

April meeting: Peter Worn

**Closing Prayer:** Bob Vertucci

Prepared by,

Heidi Stemkoski  
Parish Council Secretary

**NEXT MEETING:** April 30, 6:30 – 8:00 pm (vote will be held for 4 new members)

**MEETING SCHEDULE:** June 11 (final meeting – invite new members)