

Parish Council Minutes – 10 December 2023

Attendance: Fr. Eickhoff, Fr. Johnson, Mike Weiss, Barb Chall, Mary Egler, Travis Haberman, Bob Sullivan, Chris Lautenschlager, Steve Sladky

Opening Prayer: Fr. Eickhoff

The minutes for the 11 November meeting were reviewed. A correction was made to the Women's World Day of Prayer note. "Our parish was approached to host the Women's World Day of Prayer to pray for Palestine. We declined to host the event due to the charged topic of the event." Barb Chall made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Mary Egler seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with the correction.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parish tithing – successes and challenges – Bob Jurgensmeier – finance committee – discussed the handout with the 2021-2022 actual parish income-expenses, the 2022-2023 budgeted and actual parish income-expenses, and the 2023-2024 budgeted parish income-expenses. The new tuition and scholarship program for the Saunders Catholic Schools was briefly discussed. Also discussed were the Saunders Catholic Schools tuition increases to the parish due to tithing not increasing to the parish. The parish fiscal year is from 1 July to 30 June.

Saturday Vigil Mass time change - feedback – Fr. Eickhoff – the parish Mass attendance census was conducted the first two weeks in October with an approximate 36% attendance rate. The census at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass time was approximately 140 parishioners. The census for the 4:30pm Vigil Mass time was over 200 parishioners after the time change. The number of registered parishioners in the parish was discussed.

New free standing altar and church improvements – Fr. Eickhoff – Gene Kriz built the free standing altar at a cost of approximately \$10,000. We have received the donations to pay for the altar.

New improvements to the church still needed: new sanctuary furniture, new pews, new carpeting.

Parish engagement with FlockNotes – Fr. Eickhoff – plan to have Gene Coleman, Peg Bouc, and Fr. Eickhoff meet in December to review the work to setup FlockNotes for the parish. A brief overview of FlockNotes capabilities was discussed.

The Stewardship Council's community outreach committee discussed their creation of ten parish neighborhoods within the parish geographical area. The community outreach committee discussed their Mission CONNECT – Christ's Outreach Nurtures Neighborly Encouragement, Compassion, and Togetherness. The committee plans to use a connection card drive to request updated parishioner information.

Parish outreach position – Chris Lautenschlager – discussed an overview of the possible new position which could be part time, or in partnership with FOCUS in the parish, or full time. The members of the hiring committee are: Gery Kenney, Eva Fujan, Katie Ostgren, Chris Lautenschlager, and Fr. Eickhoff.

St. Wenceslaus Music Ministry and hymnals – Fr. Eickhoff – discussed the plan to revitalize the parish music ministry and to purchase new hymnals for the parish. The plan is to form a committee to recommend the new hymnal and to lead the music ministry. At this time we plan to keep the missalette subscription.

Parish Council elections – Travis Haberman – discussed the plan to have candidate names submitted and reviewed starting in November for the elections to be held in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed capital improvements – Fr. Eickhoff – applied for a grant for the church bell repairs from the First Catholic Slavic Ladies Association and received \$5,000 to help cover the cost of the repairs.

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School applied for a grant for playground equipment from the First Catholic Slavic Ladies Association and received \$5,000.

Building Maintenance committee – walked the parish campus to assess the property conditions.
–Handicap ramp repairs – plan to repair the handrails and the sidewalk near the ramp. Also plan to repair the sacristy entrance stairs.

-2nd Street west exit changes – changes put on hold until the City of Wahoo finishes their repairs to the 3rd street water main that is scheduled in the spring 2024. Those repairs may extend down to 2nd street or 1st street.

The paperwork for the City of Wahoo to vacate 2nd street to the church is still on the desk of Melissa Harrell.

-Church plaster repairs

-the plan is to build a grotto to the Blessed Mother on the north side of the school addition.

Parish Library – a parish family has offered book shelves for the parish library in the church basement. The parish is accepting Catholic books for the parish library.

Church cleaning – discussed asking those parish ladies scheduled to clean the church to wait until after the Saturday morning Mass post adoration to start their cleaning.

Communion rail – the use of the communion rail during weekend Masses – the plan is to preach on the use of the communion rail at the weekend Masses in the near future.

Next Meeting: 13 January 2024 at 6:30am

Closing Prayer: Fr. Eickhoff

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Sladky