

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of November 11, 2014

**Attendance:** Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Janusz Herasimowicz, Jonathan Van Dine, Sharon Snuffer and Patti Cinea.

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:08 p.m. The following was discussed:

1. Minutes of October's meeting were reviewed and accepted.
2. **Finance:** Follow up to the publication of the Annual Finance Report for fiscal year July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. This report was inserted into the bulletin for parishioners. Tentative open parish meeting to allow parishioner review of information and feedback possibly November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mike Harney will need to be contacted to confirm this date.
3. **Youth Groups:** The Junior Youth Group is composed of 10 children in grades 5-8. The Senior Youth Group is starting anew. High school aged students are invited to join. Focus of this group will be in the areas of worship and social activities.
4. **Property Management:** Theresa's door received a glass insert to allow her visibility while allowing her the ability to close the office door to contain heat.
5. The 52nd annual **Community Thanksgiving Service** will be held at the United Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Don Benevides has accepted to coordinate the music and direct the combined choir for this event.
6. **Christmas Fair:** On the day of the Fair, Herrick Park has been rented out by the Town; therefore, this site will not be available for overflow parking. Permission has been obtained to utilize both the Town Hall and United Congregational Church parking lots. If the ground is firm, parking on the grass on the lower lot level to the left of the Parish Center may be a possibility. Jonathan again will coordinate the parking. He will solicit volunteers from the pulpit and bulletin. Confirmation Candidates have been requested to provide baked goods for sale as part of their parish community service. Also, they may help out with fair set up and take down, including helping professional crafters moving in and out on Fair Day. Two adult contact persons have been identified to provide direction and sign school community service paperwork for the teens.
7. There are special offertory envelopes marked for **St. Maurice Fuel Fund**. There are two fuel collections per month during the heating season from October to Spring. This will help financially support the cost of heating the parish buildings. Last week's collection raised a little over \$1000.
8. The annual **October Count** proved stable in Mass attendance in comparison to last years.
9. **Music Ministry:** Four parishioners attended a recent Diocesan workshop that focused on 'liturgy done well enhances worship and promotes a healthy parish'. It catechizes. All parts of the liturgy should be done well—the readings, the homily, and the music. Music is powerful and essential to Liturgy. However, music should not be "entertaining" nor concert-like. It should be 'life changing'; positive. The Council discussed that applause for those singing/playing instrumentals should be withheld as general etiquette during Mass. It is preferable to offer gratitude and positive feedback after Mass is concluded. There are two students participating in Don's guided guitar lessons on Tuesday evenings.
10. **Saturday Vigil Mass** will return to 4:00 p.m. November 29<sup>th</sup>.
11. The use of weekly parish offertory envelopes is encouraged. Tithing is important to parish sustenance. It is of threefold nature: treasure, time and talent. It is also a difficult subject to approach as the Council does not want it to appear too money focused. The parish exists to be Eucharistic and for faith development; however, it requires financial support to continue functioning.

The meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Cinea