

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of December 13, 2016

Attendance: Fr. Leon Susaimanickam, Kathy Perlitz, Anna Czercowy, Lisa Anderson, Bonnie Benevides, Tom Manning, Mary Ann Murphy, Lou Cloutier, Amie Tillman

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Leon began the meeting with an opening prayer.

1. Faith formation update was presented by Amie Tillman. The children's Christmas Pageant will be held at the Christmas Eve Mass. Sharon VanDine is in charge of organizing the pageant. A program called Youth Pop is being promoted by the Diocese to help evangelize young people. The program would train adults and teenagers to create events for youth in our parish and surrounding churches to get them to enjoy their faith more. The faith formation team will get more information to review. On January 10, 2017, a function called Sports & Spirituality will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes in Gales Ferry, with the goal of getting adults and children back to church. Sharon VanDine will get more information. The children enjoy doing the food drives for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.
2. The finance report was presented by Kathy Perlitz and Fr. Leon. There will only be one collection per month for fuel. The collection will be taken at the beginning of the month. Mike Harney will be working on the parish's report to the Diocese in January. The report will appear in the bulletin when it is completed. The weekly collection has improved slightly.
3. The property management report was presented by Lou Cloutier. The carpeting and floors on the first floor of the rectory have been cleaned; the padding on the dining room chairs in the rectory has been cleaned; and the curtains and the windows in the rectory have been cleaned. The repairs on the roof of the rectory have been completed. A leak in the Church ceiling (on the cemetery side) where the ceiling attaches to the wall has been repaired. The interior of the Church will be decorated for Christmas the week prior to the holiday. The windows in classrooms 1 and 2 in the parish center have been replaced. Replacement of the windows in classrooms 5 and 6 is scheduled for the week after Christmas. Sometime next year the windows in classrooms 3 and 4 will be replaced. The Sleigh Bells Ring fair group is paying for all the window replacements. CCD will not be affected by the work. There was a cover issue with the external fan in the parish center which has been repaired. M&M Oil has been contacted for automatic oil delivery and maintenance of the burners. The exterior signs in front of the Church have been cleaned but need repair and refurbishing. Also the mass times need to be corrected. Fr. Leon offered to speak with a parishioner from his former parish who may be able to assist. Lou will continue working on this long term project. The St. Francis of Assisi statute that was on the lawn in front of the rectory is missing.
4. A Sleigh Bells Ring report was presented by Kathy Perlitz. It is estimated that the money raised at this year's fair is close to what was raised last year. The final numbers have not yet been calculated. There is a long list of people to be thanked for their assistance and participation is making the fair a success. The Boys Scouts who meet in the church basement provided a lot of help including moving crafters, sweeping floors, moving tables and chairs, and other assistance. The parish youth also provided much needed help. The set up for the fair and the exit of the crafters after the fair went very smoothly.

5. There were miscellaneous issues also discussed:

Tom Manning has been contacted by the organizers of the Bolton Road Race regarding use of the Church's parking lot on the day of the race. Tom has been in contact with the representative from Catholic Mutual Insurance regarding what type of insurance coverage the organizers need to provide.

Tom Manning will lead Evening Prayer on Sundays at 5:30 starting New Year's Day. Tom will print booklets with readings and psalms to be used. Participation in the past has been minimal but with more promotion by Fr. Leon and publication in the bulletin it is hoped that participation will improve.

The ecumenical Thanksgiving service at St. George's Church went very well. The service next year will be at St. Maurice.

Ministries available to parishioners, both on the diocesan level and parish level were discussed. St. Maurice's website has a list of ministries (which needs to be updated) and has a link to the diocesan website, which also has a list of ministries.

Fr. Leon proposed several spiritual ministries that parishioners can join: catechetical (faith formation, marriage and baptismal preparation), bible study, liturgical (lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, altar servers), prayer line (individual needs, prayer meetings, mass and candle intentions, prayer of the faithful), family, youth, elderly, women (Christmas fair), men (KOC), social gatherings and social services to others. Fr. Leon will urge parishioners to join one or more ministries. Fr. Leon will be the moderator for all the ministries. The ministries will report to the Parish Council with ideas and suggestions. Implementation details need to be worked out.

Revising the parish bulletin was proposed by Fr. Leon. More space is needed to disseminate news to parishioners. Publishing only the current week schedule (rather than 2 weeks) would free up space. The church picture, font type and size, highlighting and underling need to be reviewed and improved. Information about and from the proposed ministries will to be included in the bulletin. The process for joining the parish should be included and made easy. Fr. Leon will speak with Janusz Herasimowicz, who handles getting the bulletin printed.

Tom Manning will work on new ideas for the parish website and discuss them with Fr. Leon. Tom and Fr. Leon will also work on developing/purchasing an app for cell phones to disseminate parish news.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Anderson, Council Member