

Parish Council Minutes March 19, 2018

In attendance: Fr. Jay, Kevin Sullivan, Marge Sullivan, Michelle Igoe, Andy Igoe, Dawn Andrews, Hope Andrews, Andrea Tighe, Barb Schollmeyer, Eileen Weslowski, John Fumo

General Update:

- Reminder to all Parish Council Committees to send dates, times, and locations of planned meetings and events to Kelly Secor at secretary.ststanislaus@gmail.com. This is to ensure inclusion of these items on the Parish calendar, promoting awareness and helping avoid conflicts and “double booking” of meeting space.
- The St. Stanislaus website has been recently updated. (www.saintstanislaus.net) The Council reviewed the homepage and the features of the new website, including: sections dedicated to Liturgy and Sacraments, Faith Formation, Parish Organizations and Outreach, and News/Events. Weekly bulletins, past and present, are posted to the website as are the Parish Council minutes. A link to “Formed” (including our parish code) is provided and current information on mass schedules, daily readings, snow cancellations, special events, etc. are available. Pictures of parish events are also posted, including Cardinal Dolan’s visit last November, the March for Life in Washington, DC, and the recent “Journey to Jerusalem” program for the Faith Formation children. A bulletin announcement making parishioners aware of this resource and encouraging them to use it will be prepared.
- The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 21 at 7:30PM in the Parish Hall.

Committee Updates:

1. Education

- Michelle Igoe and Dawn Andrews provided the update.
- A Family Catechesis is planned for March 20 and 21, with the theme being a “treasure hunt” based on the parable of the master who gave talents to 3 of his servants while he went on a journey. Subsequent to the Council meeting, the Family Catechesis was cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled.
- A very successful “Journey to Jerusalem” program was offered to the Faith Formation classes on March 11. This event focused on teaching the children about the events of Holy Week. Pictures of the event are posted on the parish website.
- Vacation Bible School is planned for the last week of June.

2. Building and Grounds

- An update was provided by Andy Igoe.
- New equipment to address the long-standing water issues on the church property were installed last Fall. Preliminary results are encouraging: the sulfur smell is gone and initial tests indicate the water is drinkable. The parish is currently working with the Board of Health to officially test and certify these results.
- Work continues on plans to redo the church parking lot. A title search is ongoing and a meeting was held with the Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor and the head of the Planning Board to share our plans and understand town requirements for moving forward. We learned that the Pleasant Valley Library also met with the PV Planning Board to discuss

changes they wish to implement. Since our properties abut, a meeting will be scheduled with the library to share and discuss our respective plans.

- As part of the parking lot work, we are in contact with Central Hudson to evaluate current electrical service to the church property and explore the possibility of putting this service underground, eliminating the current electrical pole in front of the church and the above ground wiring.

3. Finance

- A financial report for St. Stanislaus for the 2016/2017 financial year was submitted to the Archdiocese in November. A summary of this report is in the process of being prepared for the parish bulletin, similar to the 2015/2016 summary provided in the bulletin last year.

4. Service and Ecumenism

- There is no archdiocese-wide “Feeding our Neighbors” campaign planned for 2018. The intent of this program is to collect food donations for local food pantries. Given both the continued need of the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry and the past generosity of our parishioners, a decision was made to have a Feeding our Neighbors collection at our parish. Preliminary plans are to schedule the drive later this spring.

5. Social Activities

- This committee helped prepare meals for the Family Catechesis program. Additionally, a movie night and dance night are being planned for this spring.

6. Liturgy

- Going forward, this Committee will assist Father Jay and Deacon John with writing the “Prayer of the Faithful” intentions for the weekend masses.

Staff/Additional Updates

- Andrea Tighe noted the need for new catechists for grades 7 through 9. Classes can be changed to a different day of the week to accommodate new catechist schedules. Hope Andrews from the Teen Club joined Andrea at the meeting. Hope shared that the Teen Club will be doing an Earth Day project this year. A bulletin posting requesting suggestions was posted. The teens will also be helping with the Holy Thursday service again this year and they assisted with the March 11 Journey to Jerusalem event. Efforts are underway to recruit new Teen Club members for next year, including through the Junior PTAF program.
- Marge Sullivan shared that sacramental prep for First Communion candidates has been held and a mini-retreat is planned for April. There will be two First Communion Masses this year, one the last weekend of April and the other the first weekend of May. Based on ongoing requests from parents for books and other resources focused on our faith, a suggestion was made to look into creating a “lending library” at the Church to help serve the spiritual needs of the entire parish.
- John Fumo stated that the Knights of Columbus is finalizing its calendar for the year. He also noted that Pleasant Valley Days for 2018 will be held in July, not September. This is an important fund-raiser for the Knights. Additionally, a “Blue Mass” (recognizing those in law enforcement) will be held on April 8 at 3PM at St. Denis church. As John finished his comments, he was thanked for his efforts to create a Men’s Prayer Group at the Parish.

This group started in February and meets at 7AM on the first Saturday of the month. The initial meetings were well attended and greatly appreciated.

Father Jay

- Father noted that the Archdiocese is looking to restart “cluster” meetings across the archdiocese. St. Stanislaus is part of the cluster that includes St. Joseph’s in Millbrook, Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony in Amenia, St. Charles Borromeo in Dover Plains, and St. John’s in Pawling. More details to follow, but the expectation is that efforts will be made to better coordinate activities and Mass schedules among the parishes, pool resources, etc.
- To help usher in Holy Week, pictures and discussion from last October’s trip to the Holy Land will be held at 1PM on Palm Sunday, March 25.
- Finally, the Archdiocese has asked each parish to evaluate their current emergency response procedures, fire drill protocols, etc. In part, this is a result of recent violent actions at churches, schools, and elsewhere across the country. A small team of parishioners with expertise in these areas is being assembled.