

## **Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

### **January 25, 2021**

There was no Council meeting on this date due to the continued spike in the Covid 19 virus. Below are updates from the Council Committees and parish staff. The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for March 15.

- **Buildings & Grounds** (Andy Igoe): The Church contracted with Baxter Construction to complete the following work: pressure wash the exteriors of the Faith Formation, Rectory, and Parish Office buildings; paint all exterior trim on the Church and Parish Hall and reset loose stone windowsills; and repair the masonry steps at the entrance to the Hall from the Rectory. Additionally, we requested an estimate from Baxter to replace the plexiglass panels covering the stain glass windows in the Church. Advice is being sought from a local architect to determine the best way to install the plexiglass. Finally, a discussion is planned to decide when best to start redoing the parking lot given planned construction at the PV Library.
- **Education** (Michele Igoe): This Committee has been focused primarily on providing support to keep the parish's Faith Formation classes operating. Additionally, our teens met in November to make prayer cards/relics for distribution at the St. Stanislaus Kostka Feast Day prayer service. Work is underway for the following upcoming events: on the evening of January 29<sup>th</sup>, the teens will host a Zoom prayer service in which they will lead praying of the Rosary (this is in support of the March for Life Rosary Service); examining the possibility of offering a virtual Lenten program for the parish this year; and identification of tentative dates for Vacation Bible School this coming summer.
- **Liturgy** (Jim Donick): The Liturgy Committee continues to provide the Prayer of the Faithful for weekend Masses every third month. We will finish January this weekend and be back at it for April. We are hoping to have a meeting as soon as we can comfortably get the committee together.
- **Social Activities** (MaryAngela Boyle): It has been many years since our master list of parishioners was updated. This committee made 684 calls to make this parish listing more current. Though many of the messages left were not returned, and some phone numbers were no longer in service, the following was achieved: 77 names were added to Flock Notes; 9 names were added to our call listing (for parishioners without a computer or text-capable phone and therefore unable to receive Flock Notes); and 39 persons confirmed they have left the parish.
- **Finance Committee** (Fred DeWald): The Finance Committee welcomed Carmella Newman to the group. Carmella will be filling the role that Andrea Tighe played from a financial management perspective for the parish ... no easy task. Additionally, the Committee completed two drafts and reviews of the 2019-2020 Yearly Financial Report to the parish. We hope to finalize the report in February and determine the best way to communicate it to the parish. A few highlights from this Report:
  - 1) The report covers the timeframe from 9/1/2019 thru 8/31/2020, which includes six months of the COVID-19 pandemic impact.
  - 2) Overall, we ran a deficit of just under \$12K for the year. Not too bad considering the circumstances.
  - 3) The Committee is looking at ways to improve accounting for the Grocery Card financials. We have expenses to buy the cards, revenue from selling the cards, and purchased but unused inventory of cards. We are exploring ways to better manage and account for this inventory.

4) WE SHARE program participation has increased since the pandemic. As mentioned previously we sent a letter to the parish asking for support and it appears to have worked to some degree. We should continue to advocate for more participation.

5) Holiday/Holyday collections were down by \$19K. For whatever reason parishioners are not being as generous for these occasions. We are looking for ideas to raise awareness and address this.

6) Utility bills were up by almost \$5K year over year. We need to continue to look for ways to better manage this.

- **Staff Updates** (Nancy Dunn): We were grateful for helpers who assisted with decorations to enhance the celebration of Christmas. The change in the creche scene was lovely. One of our volunteers repaired/touched up many creche figurines. They look like new! Additionally, the office staff is working abbreviated and bit irregular hours at the moment – no impact on responding to messages or completing work. Dawn Andrews and Kelley Secor are sending out 2020 contribution statements as requested. The Masonic Lodge awarded the Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Food Pantry the DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award for Community Service. Each church received a plaque. Many St. Stanislaus parishioners have faithfully worked quietly and tirelessly for years to serve our community food pantry. This in addition to the many parishioners who have supported this effort with food donations to help stock the shelves. The annual “baby bottle” collection for Good Counsel totaled \$1400 this year – thank you! Finally, the staff is working with Father Jay to identify Lenten spiritual enrichment opportunities for parishioners.
  
- (Nan Kramer): Faith Formation classes are proceeding both online and in person. Our drop-off and pick-up system for the students is working well thanks to our wonderful volunteers. We have on occasion canceled classes and had students work from home due to COVID-19 related issues. Fr. Backes and I discussed ways to implement the Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion. This year we are definitely facing an enormous roadblock of families not attending Mass due to Covid-19 which is leading to obstacles to prepare the students to receive the sacraments. We are in the process of developing a virtual meeting with parents to introduce other resources to prepare students for the sacraments as well as get feedback to any concerns families may have. Lent is around the corner. We do have a good base for reaching our parishioners using FLOCKNOTES. The thought is to develop a calendar of activities for families for the 40 days of Lent and then do something similar for Holy Week. We pray more people will have received the vaccine and will be able and willing to return to Mass! Finally, regarding Vacation Bible School, there is a parish that held a virtual VBS last year. We are looking into this as a possible option.