

Old St. Patrick Church Parish Council

Minutes for 2/7/2019

Present: Father Tom Wasilewski, Deacon Frank-Joseph Papp, Bridget Galbraith, Emily Shurtliff, Kurt Hiester, John LaRock, Joseph Adams, Jacob Visovatti

Absent: Marie Skrobola, John DeJak

1. Need new (vice-)secretary for OSP council
 - a. Bridget's technology at home is not sufficient to continue this role.
 - b. Kurt Hiester agrees to fulfill the duty of taking minutes for future meetings.
2. Reminder via Dcn. Frank-Joseph: parish calendar
 - a. View the calendar at: <https://73952319.view-events.com/calendar/73952319>
 - b. Some members suggested the calendar could be made more prominent on the parish website.
 - c. The calendar is useful for avoiding conflicts for prospective events as well as for getting a better sense of ongoing activities at the parish.
3. Review/preview of events -- general feedback for Father
 - a. Since last meeting: Advent, 40 Hours Devotion, Ember Days, Christmas season, March for Life, Men's Retreat
 - b. Upcoming: Lent, Holy Week, Easter season
 - c. Father Tom received praise for recent clarity and strength. He said he has been working on ideas from the parish vision discussion in November.
 - d. John DeJak's talks at the 40 Hours Devotion received praise.
 - e. Several council members participated in the January men's retreat, and all involved enjoyed it. At least one parishioner would have liked a silent retreat. There is some demand for annual men's and women's retreats; however, finding a priest retreat master is difficult. Perhaps a retreat could occur every six months alternating sexes so that men and women each have one annual opportunity without needing to find two priests for the same time period.
 - f. Some council members agreed that some musical selections have been repeated too much. Robert has been very receptive to feedback, so Father and Jacob agreed to pass along ideas. Some council members particularly would like more Latin motets.
4. First Friday adoration
 - a. Given the occasional difficulty with filling early morning adoration hours, the council considered a suggestion of having two Fridays of adoration each month without going through the night.
 - b. The council suggested that if filling hours is difficult, we should emphasize the good of the devotion before suggesting cancellation of the practice.

- c. Emily Shurtliff noted that Ave Maria Chapel (at Domino's Farms) offers coffee and doughnuts following First Saturday Masses. Perhaps there is a group at the parish interested in supporting this.
- 5. Handling of cancelled Masses
 - a. Gary noted that parishioners and visitors, many of whom don't follow social media, can be particularly frustrated by arriving at the parish to find a Mass cancelled due to weather.
 - b. Gary suggested that we could help parishioners understand that the Church does not oblige the impossible, helping parishioners to make a decision to stay home when necessary, and celebrate Mass even in rough conditions.
- 6. Parish vision work, part 2 of 3 -- led by Father Tom
 - a. Father Tom lead the group in an exercise from the *Good Leaders, Good Shepherds* program for clarifying a vision for the parish.
 - b. Council members identified characteristics (nouns) and methods (verbs) that the parish exhibits or aspires to and used these to form brief statements about Old St. Patrick parish.
 - c. Generally, themes included devotion to beauty in the liturgy, fostering Catholic family life, Catholic culture, and sanctity of life.