

Parish Council Meeting  
Holy Redeemer Parish  
November 19, 2018  
MINUTES

Attendance: Wayne Williams, Ginger Thompson, Jennee Chin, Cathy Buffington, James Hudson, Celia Lewis, Fr. Mark Smith, Paul Fontaine, Rob Bourque, Bob Martin

1. Opening Prayer
2. Pastor's Comments
  - a. Welcome to heads of new committees who will report to PC.
  - b. General Life of Parish (HRS report cards and prayer, SIF)
    - Many signs of vibrancy in the parish: Pastor was able to hand out report cards last Tuesday and awards for honors, most improved, special effort on Friday, and saw so many signs of healthy student and school life.
    - Stir Into Flame retreat this last weekend broke 100 in number of parishioners who have attended. They report a deeper connection with God and their fellow parishioners and a big help to their prayer life.
  - c. Harvest Bazaar 2018 recap
    - As a community event for the parish, it was excellent. As a fundraiser, the numbers speak for themselves: This year, so far, we grossed \$68,000 with expenses of \$9,000 providing a net income to the parish of \$59,000 to date. A few more expenses and some income is still expected. This is very close to last year's total net.
  - d. Open meeting for January?
    - Yes. That is a good idea.
  - e. Need for second 'Abuse' meeting for parish?
    - Although the pastor does not hear much about this directly from parishioners and has seen no noticeable impact on the parish (drop in attendance at Mass or financial support to the parish), the Council members expressed a continued intensity of feelings and thoughts about the crisis of abuse in the Church.
    - A follow up meeting is recommended by the Council members.
    - The timing was difficult with the Christmas season approaching. Recommended we raise the topic at the Open Meeting in January to set a date.
    - Meanwhile, continue and increase the transparency at the parish around this issue.
    - Publish in bulletin, Happenings email and website our parish policy on responding to abuse. "Holy Redeemer Parish is, and has been, committed to keeping our children and youth safe and bringing healing to those in harm..."
    - We will publish our policy with clear instructions on how to report an abuse, what the parish is doing to educate children about the issue and how we are screening adult employees and volunteers to best ensure this does not happen in future.

- We will also publish an invitation from the pastor to come talk to him anytime for anyone who has concerns about this topic. Some members mentioned parishioners have just stopped coming to Mass. Great to encourage them to talk this out.
  - Possibly offer another prayer service for a.) victims, b.) those who left the Church, c.) the Church.
3. Committee/Ministry Reports:
- a. Disabilities Ministry
    - Rob Bourque updated us on the work of this new ministry. Twelve people showed up for first meeting.
    - Work of group is: “Making the parish more welcoming to families with disabilities or individuals who develop a disability during their lifetime.”
    - Easy fixes would be to better promote things we currently do well; loop hearing system in church, interpreted/sign language Mass schedule...
    - Much more difficult work is need too, especially with accessibility needs. We got 40 % on a survey he gave us. His group will create and prioritize a list.
    - Relevant documents will be posted to our parish website.
  - b. Stewardship Group
    - Bob Martin represented committee, which had great success with last year’s Offertory increase request program but lost members afterwards. Need to rebuild committee.
    - Asking, “shall we clean up our parish membership?”
    - Wants to work to get all parish members to take part in at least one ministry or committee.
  - c. Spirituality Committee
    - Paul Fontaine spoke. Committee doing great.
  - d. Building and Grounds Committee
    - Tim Murphy has temporarily accepted Chairperson role of this new committee, which will help with the physical plant issues at the parish. Members are needed. Official meetings may be every other month with email communications in between.
4. Project details and decisions
- a. Church Sound System – 3 options
    - Council encouraged to get this done by Christmas.
    - Church roof: called Bob Messar, ADW guy to help us with this.
  - b. Fealy Hall Project Phase II – flooring – coming along. Set to be complete mid December 2018.
5. Finance Report to Parishioners
- Gave a draft with request for emailed comments
6. Mission Statement

- We have a draft to use as starting point. Realized this is a huge project, so we have to decide how/when to proceed.

7. “Around the Table”

- Reinstitute prayer before Mass with EMHC/Lectors/Servers/Priests.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2019 at 7 PM

(note: this is second Monday of month due to holiday rather than normal third Monday of month)

This will be an open meeting; open to all parishioners.