

## FINANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

**April 6, 2021**

**Present:** Rev. Jazdzewski, John Durtschi, Dan Marx, Denise Ives, Steve Edge and Sharon Sliwka.  
Meeting held via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Rev. Jazdzewski and began with a Gospel reading and opening prayer.

**Financial Statements:** March financial statements were reviewed by the Finance Council. Members accepted the statements as presented.

Though contributions are down, expenses continue to remain within budget and the parish is current with all bills. Once Royal Credit Union makes it available, the parish will apply for PPP loan forgiveness.

Sharon will begin working on a draft budget for 2021-2022.

**Buildings & Grounds:** A revised bid for the St. Patrick Rectory exterior maintenance was received for \$24,825. The work includes repainting all exterior wood, power wash the brick, lead paint abatement and replacement of rotten boards. Finance Council members agreed to accept the bid from Shay's Painting and submit a request to the diocesan offices for approval to proceed.

The Sacred Heart Church Renovation Committee is scheduled to meet April 13.

Continued work on the St. Patrick parking lot will begin shortly. The contractor is waiting on the City of Eau Claire to finalize their review of property line mapping. Plans are still on schedule to complete the project by June.

**Cemeteries:** The City of Eau Claire voted at their last meeting to proceed with the Omaha Street reconstruction project and bill the parish cemeteries the full assessment amount of nearly \$50,000. They currently do not have any programs in place to assist non-profit organizations with assessment reductions, and do not want to delay the reconstruction by reviewing statute changes or other possible options. Sacred Heart Cemetery and St. Patrick Cemetery will be required to pay the full assessment amount over a 10-year period with 6% interest charged annually.

With this upcoming debt, cemetery rate increases were discussed. Currently, both cemeteries barely break even after paying lawn mowing, snow removal, grave openings, and other operating costs. Increases of \$100-\$150 per burial were discussed. Sharon will find out what rates other area cemeteries charge and forward on to the Finance Council members, once received. Without any assessment concessions from the City, the cemeteries have few options

but to implement a substantial rate increase to cover the expense. A discussion included ideas to implement smaller annual rate increases, rather than larger increases every few years.

Sacred Heart Cemetery holds some money in savings, but its use may be restricted. Sharon will check with the diocesan attorney regarding these funds and the possibility of combining both cemeteries into one account.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM with a closing prayer.