

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES: APRIL 06, 2020**

**ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Parish Council meeting was held at 6:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Scanlan Center, St. George, UT as well via Skype. The reason for the split was because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Present in the conference room:** Father Dave Bittmenn, Carole Drake, Don Drake, Mariana Lawrentz, Ricardo Martinez, and Sheila Redman.

**Present via Skype:** Father Dave, Juan Carbajal, Rita Cohen, Angie Gomez, Tim Kockler, and Jane Mruczek.

Father Dave opened the meeting with a prayer. Tim made the motion to approve the March minutes. Don Drake approved and Father Dave seconded the motion.

Father then mentioned that, in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, various Church events need to be rescheduled: Baptisms, Weddings, Liturgical Celebrations (Confirmation, First Confession, & First Holy Communion). Two other events need to be rescheduled: Cinco de Mayo and Octoberfest.

Rita suggested having Cinco in October because the summer months are too hot. Marianna suggested September 12 or 19. Carole Drake verified that St. George's Iron Man is scheduled for September 19. Angie mentioned having a dance in the evening on the same day as Cinco, but Rita pointed out that people who attend the 7:00pm Mass wouldn't attend a dance until 9:00pm. As of now, we will proceed with Cinco on September 12 unless a conflict comes up.

The question: should there be a combined celebration (Cinco & Octoberfest) or two separate events? Don reminded everyone that the Knights would have to be consulted since the Octoberfest is their activity. Tim said he would contact the Knights to discuss options.

Another event that needs planning and a date (November?) is the Thrift Store Fashion Show Luncheon.

The next topic discussed was Future Speakers. It was agreed that too much could be going on in October and that, perhaps, November would be a good kickoff just before Advent. Several suggestions for speakers were made: Father Pavone, Tracy Welliver, Scott Hahn, and Tim Staples. Sheila would check on Father Pavone's availability and cost and Carole Drake will check with Tracy Welliver. Don also mentioned that we need to decide what it is that we are actually looking for in a speaker. The topic of speakers is tabled until the next meeting. Father Dave suggested that we aim for Advent; if that's a problem, then we aim for Lent. Tim emailed a list which included a number of additional speakers.

Resources for Prayers: Information is on the diocesan website.

Tim proposed forming a sub-committee of Catholic Physicians to discuss issues re the Corona Virus & Resources. The committee could advise parishioners on this virus, recent outbreaks, recent research, do's & don'ts. Such information could be put on the parish website and, perhaps, other avenues. Tim would approach his colleagues about such a sub-committee.

The next topic discussed was the current problem with finances. How do we get the parishioners to donate as they used to? Tim asked how we could make it more convenient for dropping off donations. For some, there are probably financial reasons not to continue donations; others just forget. Juan suggested using the parish website or Facebook to specifically ask for donations, for tithing. He and Tim volunteered to share the appeal on Facebook reminding people to mail their offerings or to drop off their envelopes at the office or to explore online giving. Other suggestions included Father Dave doing a video presentation on YouTube and/or Facebook.

Father Dave mentioned that the Diocese thinks that this is a down-time that would allow us to qualify for a small-business loan. This would have to be researched.

Religious Education teachers need to be asked about the rice bowls; the bowls can be dropped off at the office.

Tim brought up the topic of a drive-in Mass. Father said he would need to talk to the Bishop. Driving would be problem; so would Holy Communion.

Father Dave concluded the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 04, at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane H. Mruczek