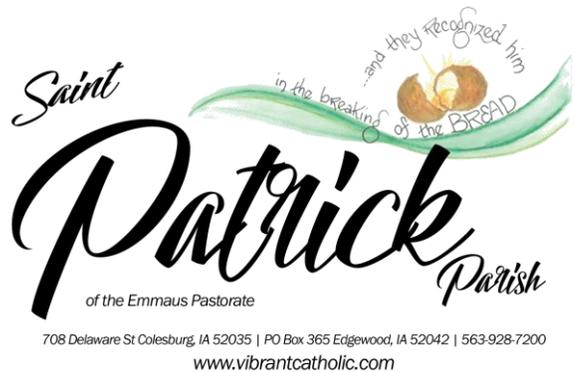


**St Patrick Town Hall Meeting**  
**Sunday February 21, 2021**  
**9:00 in Parish Center**



**Meeting Notes:**

**Father John Haugen started the meeting providing the reasons that the parishes of the Emmaus Pastorate are having these annual meetings: to keep the parishioners informed, to hear from the parish councils, to provide progress on goals, to hear about parish finances, and to discuss how we can improve.**

**The members of the current parish council introduced themselves as well as Sandy Klaus as business manager.**

**Sandy Klaus then handed out a data sheet for the pastorate and for St Patrick's parish. This sheet is attached at the end.**

**Father John made comments on the good attendance at mass for our parishes compared to others. We averaged 50 to 60 attendance at weekly masses after Covid 19 as compared to 35 recently at the Cathedral.**

**Council President, John Wessel, went over our goals from last year and how we were unable to do many of them due to the Covid restrictions but that we hope to improve during the coming year.**

- 1. By June 2021, increase the St Patrick footprint across the community.**
  - a. Explore ecumenical opportunities (turkey supper with the Methodist church for example) *This was cancelled due to Covid***
  - b. Post opportunities (like the food drive) on community website *This has gone well with help from Sandy Klaus and Deanne Wulfekuhle***
  - c. Host community card parties in January through March/ April**
  - d. Sell lasagna in February *Deanne said we sold 75 this year with a good profit. She mentioned that our other parishes purchased many of them.***
  - e. Steak fry (when possible) *This had to be changed to drive through this year and was quite successful.***
  - f. Fish fry (when possible.) *We are ready for our fish fry this Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> as a drive through, come in and pick up your dinners. John thanked Jamie and Sarah Mormann for their outstanding help with the steak fry and fish fry.***

**Dean Boeckenstedt, grounds and building committee, reported on the progress paying off the parish hall debt. We had a \$250,000. building cost, borrowed \$125,000 and the balance due is down to \$54,000. Dean thanked all who donated their time and money for this project. Keep up the good work.**

**Father John then asked what is working well. Responses from the parishioners were:**

**Great job paying off our building debt**

**The PA system is working well in the parish center**

**Parishioners are working well together on projects- steak fry and fish fry**

**Our attendance numbers are staying stable**

**Kevin Fischer is taking good care of the sidewalks with all of our snow and ice**

**Dean thanked Dale Tibbott for cleaning our back driveway**

**Deanne Wulfekuhle thanked the parents for sending their kids to faith formation every week. There are only two of the five parishes that have stayed in person training.**

**Father then asked for any challenges. Responses were:**

**Getting people to come back to church. Father said this is all about “relationships” and about the Eucharist. Catholic parishes are open when even some Protestant ones are closed during this trying time.**

**Live streaming has been to our advantage. Father mentioned his former student from UNI was watching weekly online from Germany! These broadcasts are not costing us anything and it is a great out reach.**

**Someone inquired when we plan to move back into the church for masses. It was noted that there is always the opportunity for mass and Word services in church on Tuesdays. Father said we need to work on that. Once more people have the Covid vaccinations and we can reach “herd immunity” we will be closer.**

**Father said to stay positive. Keep inviting and making others welcome. Keep reaching out to those who have not been here lately. Relationships!**

**The meeting was closed with a prayer.**

**Submitted by Carol Steger  
Parish Council Secretary**