



St. Patrick Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Parish Center

PRAYER –

Agenda

- **Bereavement Presentation**
Fran Zichal and Kandi DeShaw, from the Elkader St Joseph's Parish Bereavement Committee, provided information on their current bereavement activities and a proposal for pastorate wide support for anyone in the area needing help, hope and healing after the loss of a loved one. We were encouraged to find a volunteer in our parish to help assist with this program. Proposed sessions would be held at St Mary's lead by the St Joseph committee possibly twice a year.
- **Fish Fry Results**
Sandy Klaus handed out a summary of the fish fry results and John Wessel went through them. We have a profit of \$5,684.82 at this time and this money along with the profit from the lasagna sales will be used to lower our parish building loan amount. This should be under \$50,000, after this is applied. There was a discussion on other projects in the future; keeping the second Friday of Lent for the fish fry, when to have our summer/fall steak fry, and working to have a Thanksgiving dinner sometime cooperating with the local Methodist church. More information is needed. It was decided not to send thank you notes to major donors to the fish fry except to Father John.
- **Parish Directory**
Sandy Klaus talked about possibly having a pastorate wide photo directory with a section for each of the five parishes. This was approved by all.
- **Streaming Information**
Sandy also handed out a graphic showing how many people are watching our services online, which had been prepared by Lori Keppler. There was a brief update on having our church and parish center prepared to broadcast between the two areas, in case of overflow in the church.
- **Elections – Third Saturday of May**
We now have three candidates for two positions on the parish council for the elections in May. A new president would be voted on by the council after the election results.
- **Pay It Forward**
 - Amount in Account \$307.47 Carol Steger explained how donations are collected on the third Sunday of each even month and those funds used to help anyone in need. Due to Covid there have been no collections for the past year, only anonymous donations. She reported on past people who have been helped and proposed two new possible ones- a family who lost their home in a recent fire and a parishioner who is hospitalized and needing extended care. We will provide each of the families with Visa cards to aid them.

- Reports
 - Faith Formation Commission – Deanne Wulfekuhle reported on the parking lot confessions on Wednesday after stations of the cross with faith formation kids. She announced that First Communion date is May 2nd and Baccalaureate on May 16th. We will need to wait to see when new rules for Covid restrictions are released before plans for food and hospitality can be planned.
 - Building and Grounds Committee – Dean Boeckenstedt mentioned that we need to provide payment for clearing the snow behind the parish center. The salary for lawn care was approved and the need to retain Donald Budden’s work. He reported on minor care needed on the lawns, planting new trees, painting the back of church.
 - Parish Life Committee – There was a discussion on a breakfast or food, the quilt raffle, and other issues depending on Covid restrictions.
 - Stewardship/Social Justice Committee – Carol Steger said the food drive will continue and food collected this time will go to the Delaware County Food Pantry, to be delivered by Sandy Klaus. Deanne will post on the Colesburg website that we will have containers out on the Saturday before Easter and Easter morning until after mass open to all in the area.
 - Finance Committee – The new budget will be presented in May. We are doing OK.

- Review Town Hall Meeting Input and Revise Parish Goals

1. By June 2021, increase the St. Patrick footprint across the community.
 - a. Explore ecumenical opportunities (turkey supper with Methodist church for example)
 - b. Post opportunities (like the food drive) on community website
 - c. Host community card parties in January through March/April
 - d. Sell lasagna in February
 - e. Steak fry (when possible)
 - f. Fish fry (when possible)

Some of our goals could not be met due to Covid but many were successful. We hope to improve on them in the coming year.

2. By June 2021, increase communication with the homebound through phone calls, cards, visits (when possible), etc.

Parish Life will try to send cards to anyone in the hospital or homebound. We currently have people making these calls and a parish spreadsheet is updated with anyone newly sick or hospitalized. We will add participation in the new bereavement ministry as a new goal.

2021 Town Hall Meeting Parishioner Input

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.

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!

Closing Prayer- Volunteer

Present for the Council Meeting were Sandy Klaus, John Wessel, Deanne Wulfekuhle, Carol Vorwald, Kris Hillers, Peggy and Bob Schilling, Carol Steger, Rosalee and Dean Boeckenstedt, Sarah and Jamie Mormann, and Lucas Thein

Submitted by Carol Steger, Secretary