

Parish council meeting February 18, 2021; 6:30pm – 8:00pm

PRESENT: Fr Ross, Tim Doval, , Elizabeth Crail, Ann Hagestead, Anna Mouton, Carolyn Dukes, Molly Murphy, Lourdes Bernal

EXCUSED: Jim Villano, Roberta Carnahan, Barb Fennessy, Gina Torres, Ricardo Rodriguez, Jim Laferriere, Patty Walter, Tom Vorderbruggen

GUESTS: Mollie Eckhart

Parish Council minutes from the November 19, 2020 meeting, emailed to council and posted on-line at sacredheartak.org

Opening prayer

Hispanic Apostolate: Lourdes distributed hand-out of upcoming activities and events. Attendance at the 1:00 pm Spanish Mass has been between 30-40 people. Wednesday rosary and Lectio Divina via zoom has reached people locally, in Anchorage and internationally. Fr Humberto has been traveling from Anchorage to Fairbanks each month. There has been ongoing bible study and book discussions when Fr Humberto has been in town. Some of the resources that are being offered include community outreach, scheduled reconciliation in Spanish with Fr Humberto, phone calls to those that are homebound, interpreting and translating as needed, and bible formation study and book discussions.

Liturgy and Music: Fr Ross asked for council members input regarding reintroducing singing at our Mass celebrations. We are still practicing safe guidelines for Mass attendance. It was noted that most parishioners wear their masks, but some choose not to wear a mask for personal health reasons. There is concern for the possibility of transmitting any of the virus when singing. Council feedback was mixed; several want singing and music to come back as soon as possible, another did not want singing back yet as they were already taking extra precautions due to their jobs which put them in contact with the public and school. One suggestion was to have one cantor allowed to sing, another wanted music at all masses even if no singing at this time, another suggested to advertise one specific Mass time that would have singing so that those parishioners were aware and could make informed decisions on their Mass time. Fr Ross will take all comments under advisement.

The Chrism Mass will be held Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 pm. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent except for Friday March 19th. This is the year of St Joseph, proclaimed by Pope Francis. The Solemnity of St Joseph Mass will be celebrated Friday, March 19th at 7:00pm. and The Associates of the Sisters of St Joseph will renew their commitment at this Mass. Lenten penance services for Sacred Heart are scheduled for Wednesdays, March 24th and March 31 from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm. Palm Sunday is March 28th, and Holy week Triduum, April 1st – 4th.

Loving Families: The outreach for Loving families is functioning differently due to the pandemic. Local churches are not hosting families for the week. Instead, there has been contracts and grants to allow the families to stay at one place, and the meals are being provided by the local churches and brought to the Loving Families headquarters.

Food Bank: Every Friday, Sacred Heart volunteers help to coordinate the distribution of food boxes to families in need. The distribution is working smoothly, with families forming a line outside in their cars, and then they pull up one at a time to receive their food boxes.

ICC Soup Kitchen: Soup Kitchen could use more volunteers to help prepare and distribute food. In addition to food donations and volunteers, the soup kitchen could always use donations of warm socks, gloves, hats and winter gear to pass along to those in need. Nick Shamrell is the Coordinator for the ICC Soup Kitchen and he is doing a wonderful job.

Planned Renovations: A new entry door was ordered as there were issues with the current door not closing properly. The door along with a new Door Key Card system is currently planned to be installed. The Door Key Card system will help with the management of building access and help with security. A new Campus Facility Manager has been hired and will begin his employment mid-March, at which time the renovations will begin.

New Roof: A roof inspection was done a few years ago and it was determined that a new roof is needed. There is a current leak that has been identified, which will be dealt with when the snow melts.

Liturgical Architecture: Fr Jamie Hottovy is working on a plan for renovation of the sanctuary. Due to the pandemic this past year, this project was stalled. The Sacred Heart Liturgical Architecture committee has not met for some time for the same reason but will hope to get back on track soon.

Social Hall Refrigerator: The refrigerator in the social hall needs to be replaced. Fr Ross has located a refrigerator that will be delivered when weather is warmer.

Hospitality Committee: Most of all the activities have been on hold this year. The Ladies Tea fundraiser in 2020 was canceled. The Ladies Tea for 2021 in May will most likely not happen as we have not yet opened the cathedral social hall for food related events and close proximity of large groups of people at a social event. There are no current activities planned by Hospitality Committee.

Security Plan: An initial meeting occurred in January for a volunteer safety team. They will need more volunteers. Covid does seem to be a factor. It was decided to delay the recruiting and training of the safety team for a few months.

Regional Council Vacation Bible School: The focus volunteers that came up in a prior year has made some preliminary plans to come back again to assist with the VBS. Fr Tom is reaching out to the group to see if this will occur. Unsure of what to expect this year for the turnout of kids due to the pandemic. In years past, the VBS was held at St Nicholas Church.

Staffing: Deacon Bob and Deacon Chuck have been assisting at Cathedral. The Bishop is in dialog with several priests that could conceivably come when travel restrictions are lifted. Deborah is hoping to be back in the office in late March on a part time basis. One possible idea is to forward/transfer calls from the cathedral main line to Deborah's cell.

Stephen Ministry: The ministry is still limited due to covid for home visits.

Parish Finances: Thankful and grateful for all those that continue to support our parish with electronic giving.

Religious Education: Robert Bernard, our youth minister, has been working with the RCIA group which has been meeting at Immaculate Conception church on Thursdays. Those in RCIA will be coming to the Easter Vigil to receive their sacraments and be initiated into the Church by the Bishop. The Religious Education program on Sundays is limited to children preparing for First Communion. There are materials setup for pick up by families to take home for their children. Confirmation meets on Wednesday evenings and youth group meets on Friday evenings, and on First Fridays, meet at Immaculate Conception where there is all night adoration. Robert Bernard has also been assisting with broadcasting the 4:30pm and 11:00am Mass.

Closing comments from council members:

- Inquiring as to when will it be appropriate to bring the altar servers back to serve at the Mass as there will need to be retraining and rebuilding of the group.
- When will it be appropriate to remove the tape that is blocking off every other pew.
- Book Club suggested to supply Catholic Books on a table to share, with a possible donation box. This will be revisited after Covid.
- Voices of Hope Prayer group suggested that sometime after Covid, to have another teaching Mass similar to something we had four or more years ago which was well received. Fr Ross has put some material about the parts of the Mass on the website.
- Two talks coming up for the young adult group, and a talk at the cathedral about the Shroud of Turin.

Closing Prayer

The March 18th meeting is canceled as there is a schedule conflict with the Lenten Penance service at St Nicholas. **The next council meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2021, Thursday, 6:30pm – 8:00pm**

PPC meeting minutes for February 18, 2021 submitted by Parish Council Recorder