

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 01/15/2024 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Council: Jim, Deb, Louise, Michael, Barry, Dan-VP, Bob-President; and minutes by Leslie

Absent: Lisa & Lynne

Staff: Fr. Fred

Fr. Fred led the meeting in prayer and in reading verses 35-42 in the gospel of St. John. Members shared their thoughts reflecting on this gospel message.

News, Action, Items, Updates, Upcoming Events and Lent:

- Fr. Fred thought the distribution of holy water, chalk and scripture verses for parishioners to have for the new year went well.
- As of now, 5 people have signed up for the winter parishioner lunch. Fr. Ryan, Fr. Fred, Barry and Nancy B will be at the luncheon with these parishioners.
- On January 27th, there will be an announcement from the pulpit about the wine and cheese get together after the 5:00 Mass.
- April 19th is Volunteer Appreciation Night.
- Lent: We don't have a leader for the Lenten retreat this year. Fr. Fred will look into seeking someone for next year's lent. In lieu of a retreat the council discussed options such as setting a time and place to watch the series, "The Chosen" and to have some means of reflecting on these series. Fr. Fred and council members discussed when, where and how to present this during lent.
- Fr. Fred would like to have some additional time for confession. This can start during the Lenten season; perhaps on Saturdays from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.
- During Lent, Fr. Fred would like to increase the exposure of the Blessed Sacrament. Possible times and days were discussed.
- Fr. Fred introduced the idea of having soup and bread as a light meal provided for parishioners in the parish hall before praying the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, during Lent. Fr. Ryan and Fr. Fred will be leading the Stations of the Cross. Ashley is working with Jr. and High School students to participate one evening with Stations of the Cross.
- Bob will check with the Knights of Columbus to see if they can assist in carrying out the soup and bread Lenten activity on Friday evenings.
- Fr. Fred is looking into supporting this year's focus on a "Eucharistic Revival" by having something special at Easter. Suggestions included a quiet time, with music to offer time to meditate after communion or a presentation with the homily showing a short film called "The Veil Removed."

Retreat for Parish Leaders:

- Dan brought the council and Fr. Fred up to date on tasks and preparations underway for the Leadership Day event on February 10th in the parish hall. Dan provided the invitation list of ministry leaders.
- Fr. Fred will contact Nancy B to get the invitations sent.
- Shannon will provide the AV help and use of microphone.
- The Outreach Team will meet to work out the details of this event.

Building and Funding and Church Finances:

- Fr. Fred discussed a program he is looking into through Our Sunday Visitor. This program will assist parishioners in their financial support of our parish. Fr. Fred will be meeting with a representative of this program.
- Council members offered suggestions on ways to have our expenditures for parish events, upkeep of the church etc, (how our budget works) be made available to our parishioners.

Facility Upkeep projects:

- We purchased a new ice machine used for our parish events. The one we had been using no longer worked.

Building and Funding Update:

- Bob reported we are seeking financial contributions of 25K toward our building fund. Barry will be the person to contact if anyone becomes aware of parishioners who want to make a pledge to be fulfilled over three years.

Creating Opportunities for Community:

- Bob talked about the "Silent Movie Night" which is an event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus to support the right to life. Kent will provide the music accompanying the movie and refreshments such as popcorn and hotdogs will be available. The funds raised will go toward the purchase an ultrasound.
- Bob said he is working on getting an App available for volunteers to use to schedule their time working at the coffee shop after weekend Masses.
- Bob spoke about the success the former men's group at St. Bernard's that had having volunteers work at several places such as, Andre's House and Maggie's Place. A ministry for parishioners who want to volunteer at these centers could be successful. However, at this time we don't have anyone to lead such a ministry.

Next Parish Council Meeting: February 19, 2024 (3rd Monday of the month) at 4:30 PM

Submitted by: Leslie Arnison (recording secretary)