

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
March 10, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Ruth Hall at 5:30 pm.

In attendance: Bob Hall

Council Members: Fr. Miniatt, Nellie Broeske, Sally Cole, Kathy Cook, Ruth Hall, Frank Marrese, Gerianne Weyer

Trustees: Anna Reinders, Patrick Heesen

Fr. Miniatt led everyone in an opening prayer.

January minutes were read. One correction to change Rick Harter to Rich Harter from the Archdiocese's Missionary Planning. A motion was made by Anna to approve the minutes and seconded by Nellie.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Sound system:

We agreed at the last meeting to go with Excel out of FDL.

They have sent an updated quote. We talked about a wireless hearing assistance system on the quote but we have decided to put off a decision until the updated system is installed. It was motioned by Anna and seconded by Frank with all in favor to proceed with the updated system quote.

B) Church roof:

Weather will determine when they can finish the roof. Some shingles were fixed and Tony, from Great Lakes Roofing, called Father because he would like to set up another meeting to discuss rerouting the downspouts. Ruth will call him and set up a meeting.

C) Masonry work all around the steeple and church:

Capelle has us on their schedule for this summer. Proxy from the Archdiocese should arrive any day, at which point the contract will be signed.

D) School radiator regulators:

Air Tech has updated their quote. It was motioned by Ruth and seconded by Kathy to proceed with this project.

E) Buildings & Ground committee:

The bulletin article didn't seem to generate any interest. It was determined that there should be a chair even though we already have multiple men willing to help. Father and our council will continue to reach out to the parishioners. Frank will follow up with phone calls.

- F) Flag needed:
Sally donated and brought a flag to our meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Updated Mass attendance averages (detailed). Average weekends were approximately 253.

Pastoral care activities: anointings and communion call (Erv Kraft, Bob Baier, Robert DeBoth, Dennis Conger, Donna Seering, Annie Feucht), continuing to help at St. Mary's Springs. Thankfully, it is not hard to get into the hospital at this time.

Question: what are thoughts about the somewhat flexible daily Mass schedule? Canceling or moving a few daily Masses to do ministry outside of the parishes (SMSA)?

There was a good turnout for Ash Wednesday... about 150 overall. Mass attendance has ticked up as Lent began. Great sign! Good turnout for adoration, stations and benediction of Fridays (Wednesday evening was great as well!)... 20-some people at least? We prayed a kid-version of stations with our younger religious ed grades this past Monday.

Adult bible study Great Adventure concluded. First Corinthians bible study is off to a wonderful start (I think 24 participants). Confirmation retreat seemed to go pretty well, especially given that it was virtual. We did part II of the retreat in person, offering confessions and Mass for the *confirmandi*. Confirmation is coming up tomorrow! It will sadly be quasi-private due to capacity restrictions, but do please keep the *confirmandi* in prayer.

I've been working on my thesis...continued prayers for success much appreciated! :)
The edits have been accepted, now all that remains before it is ready for final submission is to get an index together and re-work the abbreviations page. The defense will be via zoom. Archdiocesan capital campaign is rebooting after Easter. We were originally in "wave 1" but I'm not sure if that will still be the case.

PPP loans have been forgiven for both parishes. Neither of the parishes qualify for the 2nd round, so it was nice to have that decision made so easily.

Website has launched! Has everyone been able to check it out?

St. Mary will be a holy oil pickup site on Wednesday of Holy Week. Just FYI, no action needed on our part.

NEW BUSINESS

- A) We talked about if we should be organizing any fund raisers this fiscal year. We decided to wait until the new fiscal year for any planning due to the covid restrictions still in place.

- B) It was discussed to allow the parishioners to take a hymnal from church home with them after mass and to use each week in church. Until the Archdiocese gives the parishes permission to share hymnals, the parishioners can follow along with mass & song. Father will mention this in the bulletin or at mass.

- C) Bob Hall, cemetery committee member, would like to ask and coordinate with Lesa to have the confirmation kids help clean up the cemetery. We decided to ask for Saturday, April 24th since Earth Day is that week.

Finance council report:

Gerianne mentioned that Pat Broeske, from Lakeside Wealth Management, came to talk with the Finance Committee. They decided to invest money with him. The committee is still working on the yearly financials but should finish up by next week.

Faith Formation report:

The committee plans to meet on March 18, 2021.

Reflections:

We discussed some questions that Rich Harter, from the Archdiocese's Missionary Planning, proposed for consideration:

What new things will we do to build and rebuild communal relationships of trust, belonging, and friendship? What new things will we do to help people discover and rediscover that Jesus is Good News for their lives? Word on Fire Engage?

Discussion included service projects, communal involvement outside of our Parish, including more youth volunteer activities, and hoping to engage parishioners more through our new website. Word on Fire was discussed and explained by Kathy. It is a paid program for reaching parishioners mostly through emails & texts. We decided that since the website was so wonderfully designed, we wouldn't pursue this program at this time. Sally suggested setting up a withdrawal for donations or tithes through our website.

Next meeting date is scheduled for April 21st at 5:30 pm.

Sally motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and it was seconded by Kathy.

Respectfully submitted
Kathy Cook