

## **St. Sebastian Parish Council Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and opened with a prayer. Acknowledgement of the November meeting minutes was then given.

Opening comments by Father Brian were given.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Religious Education:**

- “Blessing Boxes” were discussed, in which students, families, and parishioners can fill a box with donated items throughout the Lent season.
- Dcn. Rich will lead the students in the Stations of the Cross on Sunday March 13.
- First Communion will be held on Sunday April 3, 2016 at the 8:00 A.M. Mass. We have six children making their First Holy Communion this year.
- The “Caps for Love” campaign is proceeding well with a good response.

#### **Finance Committee:**

- This year’s Bishop’s Appeal assessment is \$14,101.00. That is \$154.00 less than last year.
- We are in need of at least six new volunteers for money counters.

#### **Christian Service:**

- The feedback from the St. Sebastian Day Spaghetti Dinner was very positive. Approximately 35 people were served. We will look to promote it more next year when Bishop Ricken is scheduled to be here. Thanks to all who participated and helped with this event.

#### **Worship:**

- Schedules for Holy Week and Easter were presented.

#### **Cemetery:**

- The Cemetery Committee is looking to schedule a late April cemetery clean-up.
- They will be looking at selling some of the used lawn equipment no longer needed.

#### **Building and Grounds:**

- It was decided to prioritize the parish improvement needs. The church basement water resolution was considered the most important issue, followed by the installation of a storm window on the large stained glass window on the front of the church.
- Discussion on replacing the church kneelers was tabled for a later date.
- The desire to refurbish some of our sacred vessels, tabernacle, and candlesticks was discussed. It was announced that a family had already stepped forward to cover the cost of refurbishing the six candlesticks. It is hoped that other parishioners will support this effort also.
- The contract for parish lawn care with Skinkis Lawn & Landscape was approved.
- The proposal to install a hearing loop system in church was discussed. More information on its benefits and requirements will be gathered before a decision is made.

- The proposal to remove a back pew in church for better wheelchair accessibility was tabled for now.

**Other Business:**

- A guideline of items needed by the Seymour Food Pantry will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. Possibly highlighting a “Food of the Month” for donating. It is hoped this will create better participation for the pantry.
- Clean-up of the church worship space and basement, which usually happens the week before Easter, will be put off until all work in the basement is completed.

The next St. Sebastian Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday May 3, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Committees will meet at 6:00 p.m.