

Minutes of the January 9, 2019 Parish Council Meeting

In attendance were: Fr. C. J., Fr. Michael, Carolyn Lewis, Michael Cardello, Beverly Coon, Claire Falcone, Sharon Hart, Don Higby, Maureen Hinshaw, Celeste Labbe, Joan MacDonald, Susan Oxx, Dina Patryn, Leo Shuzdak, Dan Sullivan, and Rick Wiatrowski

Carolyn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., at which time Fr. C.J. shared an opening prayer.

The minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting were approved with one correction: there is no charge for the 2019 Diocesan calendar.

St. Mary's Academy - Principal Joan MacDonald was pleased to announce that a new teacher, Annalise Eak, has been hired and that she is doing a great job. Joan also gave kudos to the SMA Music Teacher, David Gurt [who also is our Church Cantor and who has a beautiful singing voice] for his work, as demonstrated by the wonderful Christmas concert at which all of his students sang, the Bell Choir performed, while other talented students danced. Plus, everyone seemed to be delighted to observe the live Christmas Eve Nativity – consisting of St. Mary's Academy students.

Joan also reminded us that she still has a few Thunderbird's hockey tickets left. They are reserved/regular seats for their game on February 2nd, at which time SMA 6th grade students will be singing "*God Bless America*."

Faith Formation - Celeste Labbe informed the council that after having been the St. Mary's Church Faith Formation Director for the past five years that, she will be leaving effective Monday, January 14th because Bishop Rozanski offered Celeste a Faith Formation position at the Diocese Office. Thus, Celeste will be working here on a diminished basis until a replacement is on board. She will train the new F.F. Director as much as possible and probably will assist with planning for and overseeing the 2019 Summer Camp Program.

Knights of Columbus – Leo Shuzdak told us the outdoor Creche has been put back into storage. The ski sale netted \$2,200.00. The Knights' Spelling Bee will be on April 6, 2019.

St. Mary's Guild – The annual Craft Fair was successful. The profit came to \$10,000.00, according to Carolyn Lewis. Poinsettia plants were distributed on Sunday, December 9, 2018 to shut-ins and to those grieving the loss of someone special. Several "Children Matter" bags full of clothes, toiletries, toys, etc. were given to Bethlehem House. The Guild's "Evening of Reflection" will be in March.

St. Joseph Society – Michael Cardello reported that the December 21, 2018 meeting was cancelled so that the next gathering will be on Friday morning, January 18, 2019. The meetings are held on the third Friday of the month.

Pastoral Life – Claire Falcone told us that December was particularly busy, especially during the week of December 23 thru January 5, due to weddings and funerals. Many people remarked on how simply beautiful the Church looked.

Deaconate Ministry – Don Higby: Status Quo

Finance Committee – Dan Sullivan distributed a copy of the approved November 2018 Statement, at which time he noted that collections were down even though many people increased their weekly contributions. The decrease may be due to the fact that some people made an additional, one-time gift only.

The computer issue, having to do with the Modem, has been resolved.

Youth Representative – Dina Patryn was happy to report that she and a group of her friends, who volunteered assistance, and with the guidance of a teacher will be working together to brainstorm ways to stimulate more youth involvement.

Greeters – Susan Oxx mentioned that she needs more volunteers to serve as greeters, especially for the 8:00 am Mass on Sundays.

Fr. C. J. – Father announced that the Church needs a new sound system, with the estimated cost of \$8,000.00. It will be paid for by the same person who generously paid for the “mixer” for the current system. The work should be done “in a couple of months.” Fr. C. J. also expressed an interest in having a copy of the Council’s minutes appear on the recently enhanced Church website.

Open Meeting: Sharon Hart mentioned she would like to see the Church be as beautiful for Easter as it is at Christmas. She mentioned a song, “*Roll Away the Stone*” and suggested that we place a large faux rock, with a stone rolled away to one side of the opening, so that a bright light can shine out of it be set up on the Alter for Easter. Father C. J. liked the idea. He & Sharon spoke more later.

The next meeting will be on February 13th. Fr. Mike offered the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm, after which we had a “social.”

Respectfully Submitted, Beverly Coon, Secretary

Copy: Sara Brewster, St. Mary’s Parish Office