

St. Thomas More

Parish Council Minutes

Monday, January 16, 2023



- I. Those in attendance - Terry Sullivan, Connie Poat, Jeri Duong, Holly Miller, Daniel Miller, Tom Clinton, Joe Hobbs, Naomi Becker, Miguelina Young, Lynn Baker, David Leis
- II. Opening prayer - Joe Hobbs
- III. Minutes from October and November - approved
- IV. Old Business - Picnic review and multicultural activity plans
- V. New Business -
 - Question and clarification brought up "What does Parish Council do?"
 - Ways to get more Stipend volunteers
 - Stewardship committee will be formed again soon now that a new minister is hired
 - Table for sign up of volunteers would be nice like in the past
 - AED replacements needed
 - Talks about having a lead usher
 - Two seminarians will be ordained May 20th
- VI. Ministry Reports
 - 💰 **Administrative and Finance – Joe Hobbs** - financials ahead of the game in expenses not surpassing what we bring in
 - 💖 **Family Life Ministry – Terry Sullivan** - NCYC this fall November 16-18, 2023. No kids should have to pay but they need to volunteer to earn their way to NCYC. Plans started and more information on our capital campaign that is going well. Teaching Mass this Sunday 1-22-23 will Not be a substitute for Sunday Mass.
 - 🍷 **Parish Life – Jeri Duong** - There will be celebrate your marriage from Couples in Christ and coffee and donuts are going well
 - 📢 **Communications – Daniel Miller**
Clayton would like a new camera to live stream old one is not working and too old for current technology
 - 🙌 **Stewardship – Holly Miller** - No Stewardship committee yet but hopefully soon with new hire
 - 🙏 **Social Concerns - Tom Clinton** - Knights of Columbus will have a rosary Walk for life this Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 12:00pm. For other social concern details see attached email*
 - ✝️ **Religious Education and Formation - Lynn Baker**
 - See attached email from Kelly Groves**
 - 🎵 **Music and Worship – Connie Poat**
 - See attached email from Kelly Groves**
 - 🌹 **Hispanic and Liturgical ministries – Miguelina Young**
 - See attached email from Kelly Groves**

VII. Joe Hobbs - Closing prayer

*Ministry Report by Mr. Tom Clinton - Social Concerns

Knights of Columbus Council 11591: Council was involved in cooking for the benediction service. This past weekend, Knights passed out Tootsie Rolls at the Kroger on Park Avenue, accepting cash donations. Money received will be used to assist people with intellectual disabilities. Knights assisted with setup, takedown and cooking for the Easter Seals Dance on November 18. Helped defray cost of ODYC with donation to priests

Daughters of Isabella: Helped defray cost of ODYC with donation to priests and lodging. Assisted at Easter Seals dance. Decided to give gift cards from Kroger to the churches this year instead of food baskets. Will meet Dec. 4 at Olive Garden for a members-only Christmas dinner.

Bereavement ministry: There was a bereavement service and reception on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Names of deceased family members from the past year were read and prayed for. Each family member in attendance brought up a candle to be lit and placed on the table.

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Parish Council Update December 2022 from Kelly Groves

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation/First Communion

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation was held in person in the church sanctuary on Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. There were approximately thirty-five students who completed this sacrament. We had Fr. Brad, Fr. Basilio, Fr. Frank, Fr. Crispin, and Fr. Brian here to hear confessions. It was a wonderful morning!

First Communion sessions began in person on Monday, January 9 from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. for those students who have completed First Reconciliation. The sessions are taught in the Parish Hall by Kelly Groves who is currently pursuing a Masters degree in theology from Saint Meinrad with a focus on sacramental and liturgical theology. There are currently thirty-eight students in the First Communion class!

***First Communion is slated for Sunday, April 30 at the 11 a.m. Mass in English and at the 1 p.m. Mass in Spanish.**

Confirmation

The next Confirmation session will be held on Sunday, January 15 from 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. We will be discussing what a Confirmation sponsor's role is and the important role that your sponsor will have for the rest of your life. Sponsors were chosen by December and will be required to join us for sessions starting in January. (If a sponsor is not able to attend a session, then a parent may sit in for the sponsor. However, a parent may not serve as a sponsor.)

The class will be given the assignment of choosing a Confirmation Saint. Their written Confirmation Saints Report will be due at the next session on February 19, 2023. There are currently fourteen students in the Confirmation class.

Class Focus- We will be discussing how the Holy Spirit plays into their everyday lives including overcoming sin and accessing grace in ordinary moments. The theme scripture is from John 7:37-39 "On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as scripture says 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" He said this in reverence to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified."

We will also participate in the session The Creed: The Paschal Mystery from the Y Disciple Confirmation program from Augustine Institute. In this session we will hear how the cross brings about our salvation, how Christ, being fully human and fully divine, was able to heal our relationships through his sacrificial death, the meaning of Jesus going to the realm of the dead and opening up heaven's gates, how Jesus liberates us from sin by his death, how Jesus opens us to new life by his resurrection, and lastly how Jesus invites us to unite our entire lives with His self-giving love on the cross.

***Confirmation is slated for Sunday, March 26 at the 11 a.m. Mass with Bishop Medley presiding.**

Music Ministries

STM Adult Choir

The St. Thomas More Choir sang for the 8 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve and did an incredible job. They sang a few new difficult pieces and did a superb job.

We have also resumed our St. Thomas More Choir rehearsal to sing for Sunday liturgies. There is no audition or singing experience required to be a part of this important choral ensemble. The St. Thomas More Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. The expectation of a choir member is to arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to Sunday Mass for vocal warm ups and join in a short rehearsal.

There are currently approximately 34 members in the St. Thomas More Adult Choir.

Choir is coordinated and conducted by Director of Music, Kelly Groves.



Youth Choir

The youth choir did a fantastic job telling the story of Jesus' birth during the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. There were over 35 children who participated in the Nativity Pageant and then led the music for the remainder of the Mass. There were

several Saturday morning dress rehearsals and memorizing lines, music, blocking, etc. in preparation.



Resurrection Choir

The Resurrection Choir continues to sing for funeral liturgies. There is no audition or singing experience required to be a part of this important ensemble. The Resurrection Choir does not have any weekly scheduled rehearsals. The expectation of a member is to arrive 30 minutes prior to a funeral liturgy for vocal warm ups and join in a short rehearsal. The Resurrection choir will be coordinated and conducted by Director of Music, Kelly Groves.

Cantors

We currently have 11 cantors for the English Masses, 3 cantors for the Spanish Masses, and 4 Seasonal Cantors who are in college and sing for Masses during school breaks such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and summer.

We hold cantor workshops quarterly to train and instruct cantors including liturgy guidelines and vocal technique in a group setting. This is led by Director of Music and professional vocalist/cantor, Kelly Groves.

Instrumental Music

Bell Choir

The bell choir ensemble played for Christmas Eve Mass at 8 p.m. They played familiar carols before and during the liturgy.

The bell choir rehearses seasonally on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Basic knowledge of music theory and music sight reading skills are essential in order to be a part of this ensemble. We currently have 8 members of the Bell Choir who played for the 8 p.m. Christmas Vigil. Bell choir is coordinated and conducted by Staff Accompanist Derrick Anderson.

Professional Instrumentalists

A professional trumpeter and violinist from The Paducah Symphony Orchestra were hired to play for both of the Christmas Eve Masses including the 4 p.m. Mass and the 8 p.m. Mass. The trumpeter also played for both Christmas Day Masses 9 a.m. in English and 11 a.m. in Spanish.

Upcoming Dates to Note-

The Ordination to Priesthood for Deacon Chris Kight and Deacon Christopher Grief of St. John's Parish will be on Saturday, May 20 at St. Thomas More.

KWG 1-10-23