

St. James Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023 @St James, Rm 7

"Come-Seek-Grow-Share"

Attendees: Fr Jordan, Deacon Rob, Rick Murphy (Trustee), Jenni McFadyen, Laverne Wrasman, Jessie Brovold, Karen Preuss (Sec), John Barrette, Chad Stovern (Chair-elect), Carolyn Evers

Absent: Jim Cox (chair), Mary Ann Karas, Paul Smyczek (Trustee Secretary)

***Opening Prayer:** Fr Jordan

***Approval of January Meeting Minutes:** Laverne approved, John seconded, all agreed)

● - Old Business-

- **Mardi Gras (Feb 21st):** Drew Yergens is coordinating this event. Funds raised will be used for technology (laptops/screens) for religious education and any remaining funds will be used for transportation for future outings. Jessie provided an update of baskets listed below and will provide to Drew. All items are due by 2/12/23 for assembly.
2023 Mardi Gras gift baskets:
 - 7th-11th grade religious education: Snack basket
 - Adult Faith Formation: Spa basket Choir: Baking/candy basket
 - Finance: Gift card basket (using Scrip)
 - Human Concerns: Wine basket
 - K-6 th grade religious education: Gift card baskets (2)
 - Pastoral Council: Wisconsin sports-themed basket
 - Prayer & Worship: Lottery basket
 - Strong in Christ: Tailgate basket & BBQ basket
 - Youth Faith Formation: Money/Lottery ticket basket
- **Stewardship and Capital Campaign:** Survey is closed. We rec'd 250 survey's, which was an 85% response rate. The information meetings were positive. There were concerns related to finances and logistics, which are good questions needing to be addressed. There appeared to be a large support for the classical education model.
Next Step: Proforma: We are looking for a 5 year forecast of financials. It will include assumed tuition, assumed cost of education, assumed parish contributions, etc. We will need to look at what the school will look like regarding education. It will be important to differentiate ourselves. The classical model may address this need. It would be best to have the school leader here a year before the school is to open to set the curriculum, participate in the vision, etc. (Fr. Jordan has a potential candidate. It is a gentleman who currently resides in TX). The contract with MASD/SOAR was renewed for next school year, which was not anticipated, so this extra money can be earmarked for the salary. The Capital Campaign will be in June and runs 5 years. The campaign will include major addition for offices, new entrance and gathering space. Fr. Joran is proposing a \$2.5/3 million campaign. Archdiocese expects us to raise \$1 million, where we will receive 60%. If we can raise more than \$1 million, this allows us to receive a higher percentage of the money raises over \$1 million. Fr. Jordan is considering selling a small pocket of the parishes land (12 acres) that borders the subdivision.
- **New Members: ACTION:** Fr Jordan will talk with staff/Renee about ways to invite/sponsor new families. There were suggestions of having a picture/info in the bulletin (like we do for baptisms), pictures/info on a corkboard, sending a Welcome Packet, etc. **ACTION:** Welcoming process set up with office staff for new membership. New member letter from PC approved and submitted to Rene in office for use in the welcoming process. Also, possibly a telephone call by Father Jordan to welcome new members.
 - Fr Jordan asked if anyone wanted to take the lead on this. Chad volunteered but asked that Fr Jordan think about how this person can help. Chad agreed to be part of that visioning. There was discussion of reestablishing the Stewardship committee.
- **Joint PC meeting with St Theresa's, hosted by St James PC: to be discussed at a later date.**
- **Festival Mass: Tabled until 2023 for discussion to coordinate with 2023 Festival**

● NEW BUSINESS

- **Finance Report:** Deacon Rob shared that contributions were up slightly. The festival was hugely successful. Our income was over last years and the budget. Expenses were \$28,000 under budget. We had income over disbursements. There was some over giving, as well as rent from MASD. It is not enough to run a school, so still need to expand. We are grateful for another priest as it allows us to rely less on other helping. Both priests will be living in the rectory. We are currently spending money on the rectory to remodel where the offices were. There will be a chapel and guest room for the seminarian. It will be about \$20-25,000 to make these improvements. We have money in building/grounds reserved to pay for this. Demoing will be started soon so that it is complete in April.
- **Church Communications Director-**Jim proposed a communications director position to communicate with all 3 churches that will be part of our cluster. Discussion: This is a great idea. Acknowledgement that things can be better run with current staff now that Fr Jordan and Deacon Rob have been here longer and are getting a handle on things. They need to understand the current resources we have. We do not yet know all the pieces we have and the dynamics of the parishes. It was also discussed that these positions are typically hard to find and hard to keep. Bottom line is that we cannot afford to pay this position right now. Maybe in the future we can look for a person to manage all 3 churches and the schools, but too soon.
- **New priest/additional parish:** Fr Jordan is very excited to welcome Fr. Stephen Buting. He is currently the associate pastor at Lumen Christi in Mequon. He will be here on May 1st. It is anticipated that, between the 2 priests, they can provide for all the masses of all 3 parishes, with minor revisions of the mass schedules. Having a second priest will offer stability/consistency. Reminder that Fr. Jordan will be away in June and July for studies, so we will benefit from Fr. Stephen being here. We can explore a joint council and joint committees in the future.
- **Additions to agenda:**
 - Discussion that we need to be doing more hospitality at St. James. **Action:** Set a schedule of councils to run hospitality after mass(es).
 - Should we start saying the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel? Many churches are to address global conflict. It was agreed that we should do this after mass. This prayer is already printed on the back of the prayer book.

Closing Prayer: Chad Stovern

NEXT Pastoral COUNCIL MEETING: **Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Room 7 Parish Center

Opening Prayer (next meeting): Carolyn Evers

Closing Prayer (next meeting): Jessie Brovold