

## Parish Council Meeting January 26, 2021

The Parish Council met at 6 PM utilizing Zoom. Those participating were Fr. Connolly, Barb Brown, Ben Bly, Ron Clouse, Bitrus Gwamna, Stan Holtkamp, Marcia Kentner, Tim Lohmann, Mary Ann Messer, Susan Smith, Dr. Joe Tansey, Kelley Tansey.

Not Present: Bob Cardoni, Kent Metcalf, Doug Slobodnik, Jake Fry  
Minutes from November meeting were approved as printed.

**Pastoral Comments:** Lent begins February 17<sup>th</sup>. Stations of the Cross will be taped. Organizations may want to lead the Stations however one format or version Everyman's Way of the Cross for example, or what is selected by staff and/or Liturgy Committee for all the Fridays of Lent and social distancing continued so the stations will not include processing as a group.

**Old Business:** The Nourish for Caregivers program was held on January 24<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. All who were there found the meeting helpful. If you want to participate please give the office a call. Next session scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Nourish program plans to meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month.

**Social Action:** The Cradle of Hope collection was supported by the parish and the collection was \$1205 as of 1/24. There is one more weekend to go.

**Liturgy Committee:** Father complimented the committee on all their efforts for Christmas reserving seating. The 4PM mass was filled with overflow to gathering space and Manning. The Liturgy committee's efforts would be valuable for Easter. Recent counts of mass attendance suggests only 30% attendance at weekend masses since COVID. The requirement for attendance at Sunday worship is still suspended. There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday one at noon [which will be live streamed] and 6:00 PM, with Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 5:30; which will also be livestreamed.

**Family Life Committee:** Ben Bly of family life will attempt to recruit a small participating group and then proceed from there. This is a Faith Sharing program with Emmaus offered for free through the diocese.

**Church Life:** Bitrus reported this committee will attempt to contact those in our parish who would welcome personal contact by phone or cards, baked goods at Valentine's or St. Patrick's, Easter etc. as well as friendship. Currently a group periodically sends cards, but the committee wants to make sure parishioners who would appreciate more contact are not overlooked.

**Parish Planning/Memorial gifts:** Parishioners have designated monies for bell tower and cross. Parishioners have expressed that earmarking memorial possibilities has been helpful. Sketches and possibilities of bell towers were presented.

**Vanco:** Vanco is a company that provides online giving that may encourage some parishioners to budget their giving. This program is like programs, which families use for depositing lunch money for school lunch. The council approved providing this option. Please watch the bulletin or the website for more information.

**Building and Grounds:** This group will meet next Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm Manning Hall. The agenda primarily is to discuss what needs should be considered regarding the parish rectory. Hopefully, Building and Grounds will have recommendations. This also includes other options such as providing other living arrangements for a resident priest. This meeting is open to anyone interested and will be held in Manning.

**Childcare:** As it had been approved by e-mail last week the committee re-iterated and approved participating in the \$5,000 contribution solicited by the community childcare committee.

**Old Thresher's:** Barb read a thank you letter to St. Alphonsus from CEO Terry McWilliams for the \$5,000 donation made to them recently.

**Parish Council Elections:** We are hoping to have an election this year depending on the COVID19 situation. If you are interested in being on the Parish Council, please let the office know.

**Closing prayer** offered by Tim Lohmann.

**The next meeting** is February 23. Volunteers will be needed for next month's opening and closing prayers.