

**St. Joseph Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting**

**July 28, 2020
6:00 PM
St. Joseph Catholic Church**

Minutes

Present: Pastor Ryan Harpole, Parochial Vicar Basilio Az Cuc, Deacon Larry Conrad, Seminarian Conrad Jaconette, Chris Desmarais, Chris Durbin, Sojo Ngoy, Claudia Valladares, Rodney Schwartz and Ben Warrell

Absent: Melissa Baysinger, Francisco Flores

Father Ryan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Parish Finances

The Financial report was reviewed. Fr. Ryan stated the Finance Council met last week with several questions about the report that have since been resolved. Property taxes increased due to the rental properties.

Renew

The proposal for the sanctuary redesign and altar rail was submitted to Fr. Brandon who in turn presented it to Bishop Medley. The Bishop declined the request for the altar rail. Fr. Ryan met with the Bishop to explain our rationale and that the rail was desired for aesthetic purposes. The Bishop still said he would not approve this request. Plans have been developed to accommodate the loss of the rail with the ability to include one at a later date if the Bishop reconsiders. The first step will be longer and more easily accessible. The floor will be quartzite and hardwood.

The Parish Hall update should be complete by mid-August. Some items for the kitchen still need to be installed. A leak in the ceiling in the area between the hall and the church is being addressed.

Work on the bell tower should be completed in 2 to 3 weeks. The metal around the windows needs to be replaced. The Historical Society stated limestone should be used for the trim. This would cost \$70,000 and would not be available immediately which would delay removal of the scaffolding. This would incur additional rental cost. The Building Committee submitted 3 options to the Historical Society. Using brick for the trim is the most cost efficient option.

The Building Committee is soliciting bids for a glass product to be used for the stained glass protection instead of Lexan. A Nashville firm has submitted a bid and Conrad Schmitt will also bid. The windows will be cleaned and repaired prior to installation of the protective glass.

Restoration of the Stations of the Cross will cost \$105,000. The group agreed to restore the altars and shrines and defer work on the stations for the time being.

Social Media

Sunday Liturgies continue to be streamed on Facebook Live with one Mass in English and one in Spanish. Kathleen Baumgarten and Susan Warrell are managing the live stream. In person Masses were at attendance

capacity for two weekends. There was confusion recently after an announcement by the Governor which resulted in a decline in attendance.

Parish Outreach

Lists of parishioners and phone numbers have been prepared along with guidelines and a script to use when calling. Council members and others will make these calls to connect with parishioners and answer questions.

Fr. Ryan will send a letter to all parishioners in August to provide an update on the Renew project and other church matters.

Liturgy

August 15 falls on a Saturday and thus will not be a Holy Day of Obligation.

Baptisms continue to be held but there will be no Quinceanera celebrations this year.

When Mass is held in the Parish Hall, the tabernacle will remain in the church. Private prayer can take place in the Chapel.

Other Business

Ben Warrell reported the timber management program will begin in late August. 50 to 60 acres will be harvested and should result in a profit of \$25,000 to 30,000. This will help the loss of income from the camp closure. The camp is available for family retreat packages. The deck project at the overlook, led by Chris Durbin, will be completed this week. The deck will add an amazing element to the camp offerings.

Rodney Schwartz stated enrollment for the school year is currently at 285. Classes will begin August 24. The original start date was August 5, but was altered by the Governor and the Diocese. Face to face instruction is planned when school resumes.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM with a closing prayer by the group.

Next Parish Council meeting will be August 25 at 6:00 PM