

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

**May 19, 2020
6:00 PM
Via Videoconferencing**

Minutes

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

Absent: Francisco Flores and Claudia Valladares

Father Ryan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Financial Review

Fr. Ryan reported the Finance Council met on May 18 and reviewed the financial report in detail. He shared the amounts currently in the General Fund, Rental Account, and Building Fund. Weekly collections have declined while the Church has been closed for in-person Mass.

He also reported the Diocese completed all the necessary paperwork to apply for funds from the Federal Paycheck Protection Plan. Our parish has received \$34,000 and expects to receive additional funds. 75% of the money must go to payroll which has allowed all the staff to remain employed.

Renew

The newly built Altar and Ambo are being stored at the home of a parishioner. The chairs are being kept in the old Rectory.

Fr. Ryan contacted Gerald Printing to see if a series of old photos could be made into a collage to fill the blank wall between the sets of double doors at the entrance to the Church and Parish Hall. The group agreed this would be a good use of the space and a tribute to our history. When proofs are available Fr. Ryan will forward them to council members for review.

During a visit to the church, Gunter Church Furnishings' representatives determined the pews look to be in fairly good shape and will not require extensive work, so the bid did not increase. They will disassemble each pew, label each piece and take them to their factory in Iowa. On completion of the work they will bring back the pews and install them.

All the demolition in the Parish Hall is complete. It was decided to leave the ceiling exposed. The wiring and duct work will be hidden. The new women's bathroom will have double vanities. Work looks on track to be completed mid to late summer.

Representatives of Conrad Schmitt visited recently and determined that the plaster in the Church looks good. They now believe they will start their work earlier than planned, possibly this year.

A fixed copper product was chosen to replace the gutters.

When the Parish Hall renovation is complete, the floor in the Church will be pulled up and a new sub floor installed. Masses will be held in the Parish Hall while work is being done inside the Church. If social distancing orders are still in place at that time, the Hall will accommodate approximately 80 people.

Social Media

Sunday Liturgies continue to be streamed on Facebook Live with one Mass in English and one in Spanish. The sound system has been improved.

Three Question and Answer sessions have been offered on Facebook Live.

Liturgy

The Bishop recently announced that public masses may resume on May 20. The previous schedule at St. Joseph will be followed, with the addition of a third mass in Spanish on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM. Since we are not to exceed 33% of total occupancy, which is 100-120 people, pews have been blocked off to accommodate social distancing. Everyone is encouraged to wear masks. At the conclusion of mass, the back row will exit first, much as is done at weddings. The Church will be sanitized after each mass. It is hoped that some parishioners will take advantage of a weekday mass to avoid overcrowding on the weekend. Kathleen Baumgarten will continue to live stream weekend mass on Facebook Live.

Fr. Ryan notified RCIA participants to choose a Tuesday evening mass in June to receive the sacraments they were unable to receive at this year's Easter Vigil. First Communion candidates will not be able to have a group service. They can receive their First Communion at any Mass. The Bishop has not decided how and when Confirmations will take place.

Weddings, funerals and baptisms can still be held with small groups in attendance.

Other Business

Ben Warrell reported Gasper River Camp is closed for June and it is not known when they will be able to reopen. They have received funds from the federal Paycheck Protection Plan to pay employees, but other normal income has stalled.

Rodney Schwartz stated classes concluded on May 12. A drive through parade of homes of 8th grade graduates was conducted. Diplomas will be delivered to each student. CNo decision has been made on how school will be conducted in the fall. Various scenarios are being explored.

Fr. Ryan related he has been approached about having a communal church gathering. The group felt it was premature to discuss since so little is known now about when large gatherings can resume. It is hoped the Reverse Raffle can resume in October.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM with a closing prayer by the group.

Next Parish Council meeting will be June 30 at 6:00 PM (in person if feasible)