

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

November 24, 2020

6:00 PM

Youth Room

DeVries House

Minutes

Present: Pastor Ryan Harpole, Seminarian Chris Kight, Melissa Baysinger, Chris Desmarais, Chris Durbin, Francisco Flores, Sojo Ngoy, Rodney Schwartz, Claudia Valladares and Ben Warrell

Absent: Deacon Larry Conrad

Father Ryan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Parish Finances

The Financial Report for October will be reviewed by the Finance Council when it meets next week.

Fr. Ryan noted it has not been necessary to borrow from the Diocese thus far for the Renew project.

Feedback from the Renew update letters has been positive overall. Some parishioners who had not submitted a formal pledge have donated additional funds.

The remaining rental house on Church Street was scheduled for demolition when the lease for current residents expired. Two occupants have asked to stay on a month to month basis. They will be allowed to remain until at least June. After that the area will be considered for parking.

Renew

The Building Committee will finalize additional paperwork required by the Diocese since the budget for Renew has changed. The original amount of 2.5 to 3 million now stands at 4.5 million. The report will be presented to representatives of the Diocese.

A letter was sent to the company that applied the topcoat to the floor in the Parish Hall registering our complaint about the quality of the work. No response has been received thus far.

Replacement oak pews with new kneelers was included in the bid sent to Gunder Church Furnishing. The 40 old pews will be sold either to individuals or as a group to another church. It is estimated that each pew is valued at \$200-250.

Mass will continue to be held in the church until January 4, 2021 when installation of the scaffolding will begin.

Additional lighting is being considered to accentuate certain areas of the church.

The new doors to the church and parish hall have been installed. Problems with the locking mechanisms are being addressed.

Liturgy

The Diocese provided guidelines based on the Governor's new executive order. No groups can meet at this time. No positive cases of COVID-19 have been reported because of Mass attendance.

Chris Kight will offer Holy Hours with Adoration every Sunday during Advent at which he presents a brief reflection.

The Christmas Mass schedule will be adjusted to include two Masses at 4:00 PM and two at 7:00 PM. One will be held in the church with overflow participants attending in the school gym. Another Mass will be offered at 10:00 pm in place of midnight Mass. Volunteers will be needed to count the number of persons entering to comply with the attendance limitations.

Reconciliation will be available each Wednesday in addition to Thursday and Saturday. There will not be a Communal Penance Service this year.

Parish Life

A decision on whether to hold the planned Christmas Party for members of both Councils and parish staff on December 28 will be determined later.

Evangelization groups are suspended until December 13.

Leonard Walther is continuing to explore the formation of a Knights of Columbus men's group.

Other Business

Ben Warrell stated Gasper River Camp has been busier with several day groups in the last two weeks, however it is now closed because of the Governor's order. Donations continue to help pay expenses. The planned tree harvest is underway and should bring in about \$20,000. An area is being cleared for a future pool and zip line.

Rodney Schwartz reported the school is also closed, but pre school remains open. There have been four reported positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff since opening in person attendance in August. None were determined to be school acquired. The recent food drive was successful. Plans are being developed to add on to the white building to use for music and STEM classes.

Melissa Baysinger related she is attempting to find unfamiliar music to avoid singing by Mass participants. However, Christmas music is important to everyone and she will try to include favorite music during those Masses.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM with a closing prayer by the group.

Next Parish Council meeting will be January 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM