

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

**April 21, 2020
6:00 PM
Via Videoconferencing**

Minutes

Present: Pastor Ryan Harpole, Deacon Larry Conrad, Melissa Baysinger, Chris Desmarais, Chris Durbin, Sojo Ngoy, Rodney Schwartz, Claudia Villadares and Ben Warrell

Absent: Francisco Flores

Father Ryan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Financial Review

The Financial Report was reviewed which included the Renew/Restoration Account, General Account and Rental Properties Account.

Fr. Ryan reported the Diocese applied for and will receive funds from the Federal Paycheck Protection Plan and will distribute these funds to parishes.

Renew

A parishioner has offered to store the newly built Altar, Ambo and Chairs until they can be installed in the church.

Bids for pews and gutters are not finalized. There are two bids under consideration for the restoration of the pews and kneelers. Gunder Church Furnishing will visit the church in May and it will be determined if their bid also includes the High Altar and furniture.

Due to the mandatory school closure, work on the Parish Hall was started sooner than originally scheduled. Walled off areas for chair and table storage were added to the project.

Social Media

With the current closure of churches due to the coronavirus, Sunday Liturgies are being streamed on Facebook Live. One Mass is in English and one in Spanish. The response has been very good with an average of 1,000 viewers streaming the services. It was noted we are fortunate to have Seminarian Chris Kight who is acting as Cantor at Mass, as well as Melissa Baysinger who is providing the piano accompaniment.

A Question and Answer session will be offered on Facebook Live on Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 PM. This will be an opportunity to take pre-screened questions and offer explanations of many of the current restrictions the clergy are facing.

Parish Outreach

The Meals program has been hosted each Saturday in the St. Joseph Parish Hall for 20 years. Because of the renovation work in the parish hall, organizers have been asked to find another venue for their program. There has been some reluctance on their part to do so. Council members agreed that the Meals Program should be told to seek a permanent alternate location.

During this time of "Stay at Home Orders" the staff has been reaching out to various parishioners by phone. Some difficulty has been encountered because of incorrect phone numbers in our database.

The weekly Bulletin is being mailed to approximately 100 parishioners who do not have email access. Fr. Ryan is including his Homily for the week in the Bulletin.

Although there have been many requests for visits, Clergy is still mandated to only visit those with a serious medical condition.

Other Business

Ben Warrell reported Gasper River Camp is holding hope that the camp can open as scheduled, however contingency plans are being developed. Work on the climbing tower will begin soon.

Rodney Schwartz stated the school is trying to stay in close contact with students through videos and email. Teachers are providing instruction online. The graduating 8th graders are being profiled on the School's Facebook page in an effort to acknowledge their achievements. Enrollment reminders for the next school year are being sent out.

The group discussed the book "Devine Renovation" which Fr. Ryan provided at the last meeting. All felt many of the ideas proposed in the book were worth further study. It was agreed that using name tags at Mass once a month was definitely of value. Other worthwhile topics discussed were: evaluating existing programs for their value, initiating Alpha classes and opening RCIA to the entire parish.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM with a closing prayer by the group.

Next Meeting Dates:

Parish Council will meet on May 19 at 6:00 PM