

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

January 26, 2021

6:00 PM

Youth Room

Minutes

Present: Pastor Ryan Harpole, Deacon Larry Conrad, Melissa Baysinger, Chris Desmarais, Chris Durbin, Rodney Schwartz, and Claudia Valladares

Absent: Francisco Flores, Sojo Ngoy and Ben Warrell

Father Ryan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Parish Finances

The Financial Report was reviewed. It was noted that it has not yet been necessary to borrow from the Diocese for the Renew project.

The Finance Council is exploring a policy for church rental for weddings when the restoration is complete. They will finalize the policy at their February meeting.

Fr. Ryan announced that Jane Browning, Director of Finance, will retire on February 5, 2021. Lori Million has volunteered to fill in on a temporary basis and is training with Jane.

The sale of the old church pews is going well. Only the large ones currently remain.

Renew Work

The work of Conrad Schmidt staff on the church interior is on target and is estimated to be completed in May. The scaffolding will then be removed and work can begin on the floors. Large slabs of porcelain will be used and a medallion will be designed on the floor at the front of the church.

A very tall closet will be built in the Sacristy. This will provide better space for vestments as well as allow storage of many items that are only used periodically.

Fr. Ryan's video updates on the interior work have been well received.

Liturgy

In keeping with current Covid-19 restrictions, new guidelines for Ash Wednesday call for sprinkling ashes on the head instead of applying the ashes to the forehead. Masses will be offered at 7:00 am, 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Stations of the Cross will be held in Lent on Friday at 6:00 pm in the school gym.

The Rite of Election will be held on the local level this year instead of in Owensboro.

A Lenten Penance service will tentatively take place on March 21 at 5:00 pm.

Eucharistic Adoration will continue during Lent on Sundays at 4:30 pm.

The 10:30 Mass on February 7th will be designated as Boy Scout Sunday. Scouts will bring up the gifts and take up a collection after Mass.

Members of the Hispanic Altar Society will assume responsibility for part of the year and Darla French will cover the remaining time.

Parish Life

A Fish Fry will be held each Friday in Lent. Due to Covid-19 restrictions food will only be available at a drive through location.

Youth Group and Faith Formation classes have resumed.

Lenten Reflections will be provided on March 10 and 24. This 3 part program based on "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Henri Nouwen began last year but only the first session was completed. The second and third sessions will pick up from last year and will last from noon to 1:00 pm. Sandwiches and chips will be offered.

Other Business

Rodney Schwartz announced Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated with various activities, including a pancake breakfast, bingo, Eucharistic Adoration and a student vs. staff kick ball contest. Parents of students will speak at the Masses this weekend. A new archery program is being developed and soft ball tryouts have been scheduled.

Melissa Baysinger noted a new cantor has joined the music staff. It is unknown if singing will be allowed for Holy Week and Easter, thus making planning difficult.

Miscellaneous

Bids are being sought for a sound/video system for the Parish Hall.

Adjournment

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

Next Parish Council meeting will be February 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM