

Parish Council Minutes: 4/20/21

Present: Fr. Bruce Krebs, Mary Geyer, Eric Schaeffer, Nathan Schneider, McKenna Beeter, Marian Himmerick, Ellen Sipma, Deacon Mohn, and Deacon Steve Streitz.

Absent: Michaela Woiwode, Chris Baker, and Kathie Lach.

Opening prayer was led by Marian Himmerick.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Eric Schaeffer to approve the minutes. Seconded by McKenna Beeter. Motion approved.:

Steve reported on the minutes from the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting on 4-5-21. The immediate needs are: The walls and ceiling upstairs in the rectory will be painted. Wallpaper will be removed in the housekeeper's bedroom and in the pastor's bathroom. Committee members thought we should put lights in the ceiling upstairs to give more light. The TV will be moved from the wall where it is now to above the fireplace in the living room. The washer and dryer will be moved from the kitchen to the guest bathroom on the south end of the rectory. New furniture has been purchased for the living room. We hope to have this work done before Fr Maus and Fr Degele move in.

Future needs discussed were: Updating the rectory kitchen and the need for additional classrooms in the main church.

Steve also mentioned that, when Fr Bruce spoke at weekend Masses a few weeks ago about the need for parishioners to consider increasing the amount of their contributions, he was speaking about our operating budget and being able to pay day-to-day expenses. We do have some money available in savings, but some of that money is restricted to being used only for building projects and improvements. We will have an additional expense this year with paying the salary for a second priest. Expenses have gone up each year, and contributions have not increased in line with our expenses.

Some Covid restrictions have been lifted: Fellowship on Sunday mornings, funeral lunches being served, and Fr Bruce having children's offering at weekend Masses are a few them, There was discussion about the possible use of offertory baskets with handles on them because we are not able yet to pass the baskets through the pews. We notice more people are feeling okay about sitting upstairs, but there are a few who appreciate being able to sit in the dining room and space out a bit from other people. All of the books are back in the pews, including the children's book for the Mass. We did have two individual 1st Communion Masses instead of being at the parish weekend Masses. This was due to having to schedule these Mases when there were still Covid restrictions. Fr Bruce said he would prefer in the future that this happens at weekend Masses so parents and 1st communicants are surrounded by faithful parishioners.

Fr Bruce commented that we will be welcoming new parishioners the weekend of May1-2. There will be a Life in the Spirit seminar for the next 3 Saturdays. Carnations will be available on Mother's Day from the Respect Life Committee. We will be celebrating Pentecost and having a procession on Corpus Christi Sunday.

Our next meeting will be May 11, 2021. Fr Bruce led us in prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Deacon Steve