

St. Sebastian Parish Council Meeting Minutes – August 22, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and opened with a prayer.

A welcome was given to Brad Vanden Heuvel our new secretary, and Jessica Melchert the new RE Coordinator.

Acknowledgement of the Agenda and the May meeting minutes was then given and approved.

Fr. Sengole addressed the council and thanked all involved in being active members of the parish.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee:

- Presently we are \$8,532.00 behind in our parish income for the fiscal year.
- The Bishop's Appeal goal this year has been met.
- The proposed parish budget for this year is \$17,000.00 less than last year.
- Questions were raised about the yearly cost of operating the church elevator. An itemized report will be presented for our next meeting.

Cemetery:

- Cemetery lots sold last year amounted to \$6,320.00.

Building and Grounds:

- The church seat cushions have been installed and the carpeting is in the process of being installed. The cost for the cushions will be more than originally quoted because of the manner in which the old cushions were installed. A final invoice has not yet been received.
- Brad Vanden Huevel will look into running a fiber optic line from the parish center to the church. This will provide better WiFi service to the church building. He will also install a WiFi thermostat in the church to enable us to better monitor the temperature.

Religious Education:

- The RE classes this year will begin on Sunday October 1st. They will conclude on June 2nd of 2024. All the teachers needed have been assigned.
- Registration packets have been sent to the parents.
- The Little Liturgy program for children has been dropped this year. In its place Fr. will give Sunday bulletins to the children after Mass.
- The RE group is now looking for ways and activities to create more parent involvement.

Christian Women:

- Looking for dates to clean the Parish Center, church kitchen, and church interior after carpeting is installed.
- The Christmas Giving Tree will be offered once again beginning in November.

Worship:

- No report.

Other Business:

- Our parish will cover 20% of the cost of rent for the pastor while a new rectory is being built in Seymour.
- Our parish is being asked to take part in the cost of the “Formed” app. St. John’s is planning on trying the app. for one year beginning in Advent. It has a lot to offer for anyone wishing to enrich their faith or use for study groups, religious ed. groups, Bible studies etc. If we choose to take part in the program, we will cover 25% (\$550.00) of the yearly cost. A decision will be made by October.
- Much discussion was held on ways we can promote and encourage parish unity and build community. All are asked to brainstorm on ideas. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

The next St. Sebastian Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday November 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Committees will meet at 6:00 p.m.