

St. Sebastian Parish Council Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023

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

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

Fr. Sengole was absent.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee:

- Parish income from July-September was \$31,907.50. That was a \$2,052.71 increase from the same time period last year. Total expenses for July-September were \$38,868.17. This resulted in a net loss of \$6,960.67.
- The question was asked at the last meeting about what the average yearly cost of operating the church elevator was. It was given at about \$2,060.00.

Cemetery:

- Cemetery cleanup went well with lots of people helping.
- The request was made to try to get more young people involved in these parish activities.

Building and Grounds:

- Winter snowplowing was again contracted to Darrin Stingle at a cost of \$125.00 per event.
- Dick Stedl and Clarence Grusczyński added extra weather stripping to the church southwest door to prevent bugs from getting into the building. They also installed a rain gutter on the northwest side of the church entrance lobby and sealed the stone and foundation area to prevent water from getting into the building.
- Brad Vanden Huevel and his wife Amy have installed a fiber optic line from the parish center to the church. Final hookup has not yet been done.
- A charge of \$100 was made to the parish from Country Visions for use of the LP tank. We will look at converting the church kitchen stoves to natural gas by next July to avoid further charges on the tank.
- Sure-Dry repaired a defective area in the church basement that allowed water to seep onto the floor. They also did an inspection of the entire drainage system and found it functioning as designed.
- A recommendation to install a SaniDry Sedona dehumidifier in the church basement was made. This would replace the two other units there now. Cost would be \$3,100.00. Suggestion was tabled for now.
- The decision was made to purchase a granite bench for the memory garden in the cemetery. This purchase will be paid for out of the **one by One campaign**.

Religious Education:

- We currently have 36 students enrolled in our RE program from 20 families.
- In January a representative from the Diocesan Youth Ministry office will be speaking to the students.
- Currently one of the focuses for the students are learning the prayers of the Church.
- Planning is being done for student involvement in the Advent and Christmas season liturgies.
- A newsletter to the parents is being looked at as a tool for greater involvement.

Christian Women:

- The Christmas Giving Tree program is going well. As of this meeting only two families were left to take.

- The Bake Sale is scheduled for Sunday December 10. Proceeds will be used for one or two families at Christmas next year.

Worship:

- Training is ongoing on using an I-pad for the Sunday music.
- Currently working with RE on Advent and Christmas.
- Always looking for help with the music ministry. Anyone interested is encouraged to come forward.
- The Christmas Mass schedule was given. It will be as follows:
 - A. Christmas Eve Morning = regular Sunday Mass at 8:00 A.M.
 - B. Christmas Eve = 4:00 P.M. at St. John's
 - C. Christmas Eve = 6:00 P.M. at St. Sebastian's
 - D. Christmas Day – 8:00 A.M. at St. Sebastian's
 - E. Christmas Day = 10:00 A.M. at St. John's

Other Business:

- The “Formed” App. will be available for use beginning with Advent. This is a shared purchase with St. John's for one year. It has a lot to offer for anyone wishing to enrich their faith or use for study groups, religious ed. groups, Bible studies etc. A parish representative will introduce the App on the first Sunday of Advent.
- A request was made to the parish from Emmanuel Lutheran in Seymour on help with the construction cost of the Inclusive Community Playground built on Main Street in Seymour. This playground is open and available to anyone regardless of their abilities. The decision was made to donate 50% of our Christmas loose collection to this cause.
- Discussion on ways to celebrate St. Sebastian Feast Day in January was held. Volunteers will look at holding a breakfast after Mass on January 21, 2024.

The next St. Sebastian Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday February 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Committees will meet at 6:00 p.m.