

Parish Pastoral Council Agenda
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY
March 14, 2018 at 6:30 pm

(Our last meeting was in January; there was no scheduled February meeting.)

In Attendance: Amy Boel, Cathy Bruno, Nick Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, Kevin Haggerty, Rick Hannmann, Karen LaFrank, Mike Kosar, Ellen Murphy, Fr. Joe O'Brien, Frank Putallaz, and Steve Wiech. ***Absent:*** Matt Heitker, Cathy Bellisario. ***Present:*** Eddie Trevino.

Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe opened with prayer at 6:33 pm.

Review of Minutes – The January minutes were reviewed. Karen LaFrank moved we accept the minutes and Rick Hannmann seconded the motion.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Church and School Finances

Rick Hannmann had prepared detailed summaries of parish offertory and attendance data from mid-2016 to the present. This information was drawn from weekly data compiled by offertory counters and parish secretary Pam Bennett. He also prepared an analysis of total Parish Building Fund income and Building Plan expenses. In view of the estimates of plan completion, Rick identified the amounts to be funded by the capital plan and by the parish operating fund.

Rick indicated that total building fund income is at \$279,000 with \$244,000 having been expensed. The Parish Center renovations are currently anticipated at \$130,000. Upon completion, and based on current data, the parish operating fund balance is projected at \$243,000. He indicated that there was an increase in offertory noted in '17/'18; we need to see if it will be sustained. Over 70% of offertory income is received from envelope users.

There was discussion by Council members on directions for further study of our parish and how to make the best of our finances. Steve Wiech stated that the Finance Committee had seen Rick's analysis a week prior to the Council meeting and they were considering directions for study.

The discussion of Mass average offertory and attendance entered us into a wide ranging discussion about setting and adjusting Sunday Mass schedules, priest coverage of weekend Masses among parishes and the Sunday evening Mass. Fr. Joe indicated that the current Sunday schedule was a result of discussion among the parishes (Called to Be Church), except for the return of the second Sunday morning Mass at Holy Spirit (initiated by a meeting between Fr. O'Brien, parish trustees and Bishop Hubbard).

Council members wondered about what could be done to encourage greater weekend Mass attendance. Fr. O'Brien indicated that research (CARA, Georgetown) stated that Catholics at the 50th percentile attend Mass about 10 times a year, including funerals and marriages.

He stated Holy Spirit should consider a greater commitment to evangelization as a way to share the Gospel message and reach more current parishioners and new residents/seekers/visitors. Council members asked him to expand on this topic for the next meeting.

Building Plan Update

Our parish applied to the Town of East Greenbush for a building permit. Kevin Haggerty will check on the status of this request. National Grid will relocate the gas line; they have completed their survey work. The line will be relocated once the weather breaks. The garage and storage space will be done this spring

School Report

Mike Kosar reported that current enrollment is 201 students with 196 registered for next year. The January Open House had a great turnout – 50 community members gave tours and talked to parents. Five new students entered our school immediately as a result of their Open House meetings. A second Open House is scheduled for April 18th.

The school is beginning to plan for their '18/'19 budget. Currently, the school is tracking towards its '17/'18 budget projections. The replacement of the middle school heating system was an unexpected expense. Mike expressed the School Board's thanks to the parish for its \$10,000 support. A school alumni family gave a generous gift to the school which was very timely. To date, no mandated services funding has been received from New York State.

The school took part in two marketing projects sponsored by undergraduate marketing courses at Siena College. The results were helpful in planning marketing and promotional activities in support of our Open Houses. For example, the Siena students advised using Facebook advertising. These Open House ads were seen by 40,000 people at much less expense than lawn signs.

The School is holding their Annual Gala and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 28th at 6 pm at the Phillips Road Firehouse.

LIFT Report

January's LIFT Gathering topic was on the intersection of faith and science. About 140 were in attendance.

Youth Ministry Report

The youth will be making over some common spaces at Hubbard House in late April, perhaps the 21st or 28th. Youth will offer Living Stations on Good Friday.

Next meeting

April 26th at 6:30 pm

Closing Prayer