

St. Matthew Parish Council Minutes

4 January 2022

Present: Fr. Bob Kabat, Matthew Raymaker, Dick Peters, T.J. Sorensen and Dianna Langner. Absent (excused): Ann Weiss, Kelly Fitzgerald, and Brenda Leudeman

1. Meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 p.m.
2. Agenda was approved.
3. Discussion of: A New Way to Be Church: Parish Renewal from the Outside In by Jack Jezreel followed. Dick Peters talked about parish leadership based on our call at Baptism. Fr. Bob mentioned the great work being done by Mike Westenberg in providing social outreach opportunities for our parish and the work by Ann Froelich with our Homebound outreach for those needing communion. Fr. Bob said that the charge to "Go forth..." at the closing of Mass is a call to all parishioners to be Christ to others. Dianna Langner mentioned the many programs in the parish that reach out to those in need. Great discussion!
4. Father Bob gave us an update on our **Snow Boots/Pants** campaign. Those who benefited included Encompass, Anne Sullivan, Tank and Chappell Schools with a total donated of 73 pants, 54 pairs of boots and 12 coats. The \$1,114.00 in cash went to St. John's Shelter to help provide needy folks with warm footwear. He mentioned that St. Vincent de Paul also helped 20 families in need. The Parish received thank you's from all the schools.
5. In May of 2022 St. Matthew Parish will be celebrating its **Centennial**. The Council members will be seeking ideas from parish members for safe, healthy ways to mark this occasion and bring ideas to the next Council meeting.
6. After a brief discussion of CoVid 19 challenges relative the the upcoming Wild Game Feed, the Council recommends foregoing it for this year. The parish picnic in June should tentatively plan on moving forward since it is an outdoor activity.
7. In other business, Father Bob was asked why ushers at Mass did not wear masks. Father clarified that diocesan mandates only require masks for Eucharistic Ministers. Also it was mentioned that parishioners willing and able to participate in the Thrivent Fund giving process could contact Stacey Smits. The Council also recommended to Father that the parish not invite vendors to our gathering space. Finally, Fr. said that the finances for the parish are hanging in there, even with the loss of significant fundraisers due to CoVid 19.
8. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm. The **next meeting will be March 1, 2022.**