

Parish Council Minutes

2/15/23

Members Present:

Peter Moles
Mary Roulston

DJ Grant
Dan Horan

Fran Foley
Jill Kuehner

Council Advisors:

Jerry Ball

Sharon Racht

Pastoral Staff

Father Severine
Janice Corcoran

Deacon Mike
Bobby Decker

Donna Hurn
MaryLynn Giacobbe

Other Attendees

Nichole Moles
Amy McCune

The meeting began at 7:00 with an opening prayer by Father Severine.

Pastoral Report

Father Severine shared his gratitude to his colleagues for being carriers of faith and their work for our parish. The Hope Appeal goal for 2022 is only short of \$200. The parish census shows a higher number of parishioners that are active who are truly not active. This inaccurate number makes it difficult for the parish to achieve the assessment goal. The parish is working to update the census and bring the information to the diocese. The hope is to decrease the goal to an amount that is reflective of our true number of active parishioners.

Father shared the Lenten Programs that are being planned including the Fish Fry, Stations of the Cross, Wednesday Bible Reflections, Wednesday Confessions, and the distribution of the black books.

Ministry Reports

Financial Committee: Nichole Moles presented to the Council on behalf of the Financial Committee. She reported that the cash flow is strong yet the Collections are running at an 8% decrease month after month. She reported that in discussing with other parishes, our 8% is better than many other parishes who report a higher decrease.

- We Share - the parish will be making a push of We Share every three months. We need to get this word out and make this a priority for parishioners to participate in. We currently have 70 families who participate. Having parishioners participate will help with consistency of donations and the parish financial stability. The envelope production and mailing are a large expense for the parish. Suggestions were shared with Nichole to: set a date in the future for envelopes to be ceased, create a special eBulletin for We Share, have a QR code in pews, and have an in-house area on a regular basis for parishioners to sign up with a member of the Financial Committee.

- The Parish support to the school has significantly decreased. The school is becoming self-sufficient which is helping to offset the decline in collections.
- The Parish is current with all payables
- The Hope Appeal is just about at goal
- The Committee is working on legacy planning with families
- A suggestion was made to bring back "Where the Money Goes" in the bulletin, letting families know where the money is being spent and needs that the parish has, in hopes of bringing in extra donations.

School: The PTA will be having a dessert table at the Fish Fries during Lent. The proceeds will be going to the Eagles Fund.

Faith Formation: Donna reported that the Confirmation students are being encouraged to volunteer for the Fish Fry and to participate in Adoration and Lenten opportunities.

- Hockey Youth event with the Syracuse Crunch - discount tickets available.
- Firefighter Dinner March 5, students will be planning and making dinner for Volunteer Firefighters.
- Speed Faithing - Confirmation students and their sponsors will be participating in the event
- First Penance is March 11, 2023
- Banner Day is April 15, 2023
- The students celebrated Super Bowl/Valentine's Day/Kindness Day this past Sunday.
- Donna is working to bring back the Open Gym after Winter Break

Parish Outreach: Janice shared that the school has been very supportive with a donation of soups to the Pantry. The Knights of Columbus have supported with donations of coats. March donations from the school will be given to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, whose Chapter Co-President is a BSS graduate, Jeff Pitt.

Parish Discussions

Parish Engagement:

- **Holy Moments:** Mary shared that the Knights of Columbus have generously covered the cost of the Holy Moments books for the parish. A parishioner has generously funded the production of Lenten bookmarks to be included in the book, Donna Hurn created the bookmarks to include the Parish Lenten offerings and information on joining the Best Lent Ever and Parish Facebook page. The books will be distributed at Masses this weekend and on Ash Wednesday. 40 books will be given to the school for distribution. A discussion took place to donate books to St Vincent's for distribution after Ash Wednesday. Mary will be working with Nora Stevens for Facebook posts. Announcements will be made at Masses this weekend both at the Lector's Welcome and Father's Announcements at the end of Mass.

- **Survey:** Mary and Donna shared that about 100 parishioners participated in the survey. The comments and ratings are being compiled and will be shared in March. Five parishioners have expressed interest in being contacted to talk with the parish staff.
- **Hospitality Hour:** Jerry shared a request for Council members and parishioners to help with hosting the hour. We currently have 2 teams of people which requires a time commitment that we would like to have more help with.

Livestream Update: Bobby shared that the camera is set up and the parish has a gmail account and laptop set up in the confessional. Doyle set up the camera which needs to be started and stopped manually. Ash Wednesday is the target date to begin streaming. The parish will have a YouTube channel to watch the livestream and a link will be put on the website to watch after Mass.

Volunteer Announcement: A suggestion was made for a bulletin announcement for volunteers to help with livestreaming and the Hospitality Hour. Bobby would like to start the livestreaming to determine the procedure then work to train volunteers.

Dishwasher: The prewash cycle is broken, dishes are being rinsed in the sink and then put in the dishwasher. The dishwasher worked for the Pasta Dinner but needed "TLC" to make it work well. The dishwasher is working at about 90% accuracy.

Closing

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Deacon Mike shared a Closing Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Roulston