

St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting

Monday, May 4, 2015 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Schwartz Center

Present: Father Matthew, Kathy Clunk, Chairperson, Marvin Bixler, Chuck Colucci, Suzie Dennis, Karen Whitaker, Janice Menegay and Karen Harris.

Excused: Cathy Sanor and Jamie Burmeister

The meeting began with prayer. The mission statement was read and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Chuck Colucci to approve the minutes of the March 2015 meeting. A second was made by Marvin Bixler. Council approved the minutes.

Parish School of Religion Report by Lynn Raber

(Previously the council had requested that Mrs. Lynn Raber, St. Joseph's Director of Religious Education, come to a council meeting to give a report of the status of the Parish School of Religion Program.)

Lynn Raber reported that in 2015 there are 43 students enrolled in Pre-School through 8th Grade with a weekly attendance of approximately 25.

Teachers are as follows:

Pre-School/Kindergarten	– Colleen LaMonica
Grade 1	– Angela Schluneker
Grade 2	– Sheila Strawser
Grades 3/4	– Lori Burse
Grades 5/6	– Brian Burse
Grades 7/8	– Carol Rueth

Concerns that Lynn has are:

- ~lack of commitment of parents
- ~Sports events conflict with PSR, even on Sundays
- ~Divorced families that share custody of children; Children come to PSR every other weekend.
- ~Parents don't seem to have any interest in their children's religious education

Lynn says that the teachers do a very excellent job of teaching the students and the children seem to like to attend classes. PSR events during class time seem to be well attended.

Suggestions of the parish council:

- Do we need an annual PSR evaluation from the parents?
- Should we obtain exit interviews from families who leave?
- How can we be more inviting to all families?
- Can we provide monthly events during PSR for parents?
- Should we invite RC/SJ students to attend PSR and events also?

High School Youth Ministry

This past year there were very few events with St. Joseph Youth Ministry. No religious education classes for high school youth were held. The youth were mailed questionnaires in August but no one seemed interested.

Sister Barbara of Sacred Heart and St. Louis is beginning a program called Eastern Stark County Youth Ministry. This will include high school youth from all area Catholic churches. The Board will include two parents and two students from each church to plan and schedule events. The kick off will be in August of this year. Madison Gasparik and Sam Morrow will be representatives from St. Joseph.

OLD BUSINESS

Lenten Events

St. Joseph Parish Lenten events were fairly well attended. Hector Molena had about 100 people in attendance. Bernie Smith's Simple Supper has about 50 people. The Cantata had 120 in attendance and the Triduum was very well attended, especially Good Friday.

Parish Mission

St. Joseph will have a Parish Mission this October 23 and 24 with speaker Chad Judice. A Friday evening local speaker or music group is still needed. All council members are encouraged to be on the planning committee for the Mission.

Adoration Chapel

New baseboard heaters were needed in the St. Dominic Adoration Chapel. A small portable unit was not sufficient. Soltis Electric will install the new heaters in June. The Knights are still planning to paint the interior of the chapel later this year. Council members were asked to email ideas to the parish office for stained glass window designs.

Sanctuary Railing

All materials have arrived for the sanctuary railings. Joe Reese will install the railings in the coming weeks.

Parish Survey

The council will be compiling a parish survey and would like to have the survey on the parish website as well as in the parish bulletin. Council members are to email their survey question suggestions to Cathy Sanor. Cathy has offered to organize and prepare the survey and return to the council members by email for review. The survey should be ready in mid-August.

Council members would like the survey complete before announcing the annual theme in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

New Member Dinner/Stewardship Fair

Council members would like to have a New Member Dinner and combined Stewardship Fair this fall. Each parish committee or group would be invited to participate in the Stewardship Fair to encourage volunteers to join different parish ministries. It was suggested that a Power Point Presentation be shown at the Fair. Also all staff and council members should be present (with name tags) to greet new members and prospective volunteers. It was also suggested that the parish office be open once a month on Sunday after Mass for persons who would not be able to visit the office during the weekday.

Trunk Sale

A parking lot Trunk Sale was suggested with the date of August 1st. A plan of action for the sale with a map was prepared by Sandy McCready and included in the council member packets.

RCIA

The participants in the 2014-2015 RCIA program suggested a different program. They felt the book used was difficult to read and understand. After research, the new program entitled "Symbolon" seems more user friendly and will be used beginning September 20, 2015.

Adult Faith Formation

The "Catching Fire, Becoming Flame" Program was very successful this spring with over 40 participants. This fall the program will be "Symbolon" with 10 sessions and 10 more sessions in the spring of 2016.

Youth Servers Trip

All youth and altar servers are invited to attend an outing to Waldemeer Park on Tuesday, July 7, 2015.

Health Fair

It was suggested by council that St. Joseph Parish have a Health Fair on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Nurses from the parish as well as other volunteers would provide CPR Classes, Blood Pressure and other men's and women's health screenings. An appeal for nurses and other health fair volunteers will be put in the bulletin. Kathy Clunk, Karen Harris, and Janice Menegay offered to organize the event.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2015.