

St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2015 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Schwartz Center

Present: Father Matthew, Kathy Clunk, Chairperson, Marvin Bixler, Jamie Burmeister, Chuck Colucci, Cathy Sanor, Suzie Dennis, Karen Whitaker, and Karen Harris.

Excused: Janice Menegay

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 December 2014 meeting. A second was made by Marvin Bixler. Council approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Elevator

The elevator project is very near completion. A designated phone line was needed for the elevator. Everything is complete and we are awaiting inspection.

Adoration Chapel

There have been problems with the heat in the chapel. Because of this winter's very cold weather the steam registers have not been able to keep up. A portable space heater was being used for additional heating but the cord melted and this was a very unsafe situation. Bids are being obtained for two 1000 watt electric baseboard heaters. The hope is to have them installed as soon as possible.

There is also a plan to have the interior of the chapel painted by the Knights of Columbus this spring.

Father Matthew has announced that if Alliance Schools are cancelled due to severe weather then weekday Mass is cancelled and so is Adoration.

Sanctuary Railing

The parts for the brass railing for the sanctuary have arrived. Installation should be happening soon.

Knights of Columbus Project

Chuck Colucci, a current Knight, explained the Knights of Columbus Project, Food for Families, is going very well. In just over two months over 700 pounds of food have been collected and donated to the Alliance Food Pantry.

Book Discussion – “Rebuilt”

Suggestions for the parish were as follows:

- *It was suggested that each of the staff members read the book.
- *A Gathering Space is a wonderful idea but probably financially unpractical at St. Joseph.
- *The Greeters and Ushers need to be better trained and more are needed at each Mass.
- * People need to know how they can volunteer. Perhaps a Stewardship Fair could be held in the fall with each different ministry having a spokesperson present for questions and to give an overview of what each ministry involves.
- *It was suggested that the office be open one Sunday each month for those who would like to register or have other questions.
- *The Council would like to first focus on CCD and how to better the program.
- * It was suggested that the music at Mass be discussed in the future also.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Parish Theme

Father Matthew presented the idea of having an annual parish theme with the 2015-2016 theme being "A Year to Welcome". A chart was given to all council members for the "Year to Welcome" through love, acceptance, and service, with suggestions of how to do this under each of the subtopics. Each council member is asked to add their ideas to the chart and return them. The ideas will then be merged and discussed at the next council meeting.

Parish Mission

St. Joseph will have a Parish Mission this fall with speaker Chad Judice. His biography and speaking topics were given to the council members. The mission will be held on Friday, October 23 through Saturday, October 24. The council reviewed the mission schedule and would like to make changes for Saturday to having one talk in the morning, a big lunch, and one longer talk in the afternoon and conclude at 3 p.m. in time for Confession and then Mass.

All council members are encouraged to be on the planning committee for the Mission.

Lenten Speakers

Coming this March will be speaker Hector Molina on March 13 at 7 p.m. in the church speaking on the *Seven Habits of Highly Evangelistic Catholics*.

Father would like to have a Simple Supper in the Schwartz Center at 6 p.m. prior to the presentation and also have coffee and desserts following the presentation.

Press releases have been sent to area newspapers and radio stations, flyers and bulletin blurbs to all churches in the diocese, and we have advertised in our bulletin and from the pulpit.

Hector Molina will be staying at the rectory and will also be speaking at the Men's Conference at St. Thomas Aquinas High School the following day.

On March 27 there will also be a Simple Supper at 6 p.m. followed by Parishioner Bernie Smith who will share his faith story.

CCD/Youth

The council feels very strongly that they would like to try to find ways to help "Rebuild" the CCD/Youth program at St. Joseph. It is known that all churches are having struggles and challenges with their CCD Program and the council would like to address these issues. The council would like to invite Lynn Raber our CCD Coordinator and Principal to the next meeting. They would like Lynn to share her challenges, obstacles, suggestions and comments on what is and is not working for St. Joseph's program. They would like to have her introduce the teachers and give a curriculum overview. In addition, the council would like to invite two CCD parents and two students, one present student (7th or 8th Grade) and one student who has graduated and been through the program to hear their experiences with CCD.

Parish Survey

The council would like to have a survey of all St. Joseph Parishioners for any suggestions or comments about changes to make the parish better. All members are asked to email survey questions as soon as possible so a parish survey can be compiled. Members are asked to make the questions short but clear.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 2015.