

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/21/21

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees: Theresa Garrett, John Dwyer, Father Adam, Natalie Ising, Dan Walter, Mike Lally, Patrick Parris, Cindy Robinson, Jason Lewis, Frank Marx, Laura Ridge

- Father opened with a prayer
- Council approved the 11/19/20 meeting minutes
- John gave a parish council need to increase membership
 - John to publish request in the bulletin
 - Membership to ID and nominate potential candidates
- Father and Jason gave community building updates:
 - Fish fry will occur in Drive Thru only format
 - Committee is evaluating festival options and formats
- Father gave an update on potential initiatives to increase attendance at weekend masses:
 - Currently weekly mass obligation is still suspended – unsure of reinstatement timing
 - Potential to restart 10:30 Children’s liturgy
 - Cry Room is reopening timed with a pod rental and subsequent storage furniture removal
- Father is evaluating Parish Council involvement in new parishioner process – particularly, how can the PC help build relationships and instill a welcoming community feeling during this transitional period for new parishioners?

Department reports:

- Finance (Theresa)
 - In December, donations caught up to budget
 - Starting the annual budget process
 - School registration is tracking / meeting expectations
 - Compiling a 6 month, mid-year parish report
 - PPE round 1 – waiting on the forgiveness letter
 - PPE round 2 – determining if we qualify
- School (Natalie)
 - Lost 1-2 students but have offset that with gains (net positive since the start of the school year)
 - NTI on 1/21 due to teacher vaccinations
 - Open house is currently on hold
 - Terry is giving tours after hours to minimize contacts
- Facilities (Jason): Facility usage has increased but cleaning and social distancing is keeping us in good shape
- Athletics (Teague via email): Ascension is hosting basketball games and following CSAA protocols including:

- Cleaning between games
- Frequent wiping of balls
- Limiting fans and ensuring appropriate social distancing
- Worship (Patrick/Cindy/Father):
 - Anchor
 - Looking at rebranding the program
 - Lost 1 catechist (Tasha is looking at solutions)
 - Running ~50% attendance
 - January 40 hour adoration went off without issues
 - 2 consecutive overnights are not preferred – challenging on the staff
 - Had more parishioner involvement with this event
 - Livestream options (YouTube, Facebook) are attracting new, outside interest
 - Most parishioners are following protocols – see leakage when outside members join us (holidays, sacraments)
 - Discussed how to address those that don't follow protocols including a friendly handoff of a mask while not drawing attention to situation
 - Discontinuing the 4 pm Sunday mass
- Father discussed merits of moving Parish Council to the 4th Tuesday of the month (lands after all other monthly department meetings). We agreed to the date change
- Father closed with a blessing

Next meeting is on **TUESDAY, 3/23 at 7:30 pm** via Zoom (followed by a 5/25 meeting date)