

St. Mary's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Reflection: 7p.m. Opening prayer in front of the Tabernacle.

Present: Fr. Ken, John LaPoint, Jim Gallagher, Ron Jendrysik, Rosemary Hirst, Lisa Stewart, Gina Koss-Stephany, Carol Fiorvanti

Absent: Deacon Fred, Joan Shanley

Meeting Minutes: November minutes were reviewed, corrected, and resubmitted for archival. (*note there was no December 2015 meeting*).

Issues Discussed

Budget and Finance Update

- Overall budget outlook is positive.
- Christmas collection was ~ \$1500 under budget.
- Parish Ministry expenses under budget.
- Other Parish income over budget ~ \$4600.

Pastor's Update

- **Veridian update:** Father Ken addressed concerns voiced by several people.
- Guaranteed at least 5% less of an electric bill than Eversource could provide.
- Father Ken consulted with the Pastor of a parish in CT that utilizes Veridian and was convinced that the experience was purely positive.
- Jim Gallagher suggested that Father Ken and Finance Committee make final decision.
- Motion to accept by John LaPointe, seconded by Rosemary, motion accepted unanimously.
- **Lenten Small Groups:** Father Ken is working with Rolande on a 4-week series.
- Rosary, Sorrowful Mysteries, 3p.m Saturdays.
- Masses will be held on Tuesdays at 7p.m.

Religious Education Update

- No Religious Education update provided.

Gathering Space Policy

- The gathering space policy was passed.
- The policy is subject to modification at any time in the future to resolve issues as needed.
- Lap desk/computer desks could be purchased to be setup on the window sills to fill the need of individual tables in the gathering space.

Existing Business/Concerns

- Continued discussion of more traditional music at 4p.m. Mass.
- Kiosk, glass needed to help materials standup and be visible.
- **Pictorial Directory for the Church/Cluster:** Gina is leading an effort to put together a joint directory of St. Mary and St. Philip parish members.
- Presented photographer schedule for April 28, 29, and 30 from 1 to 8p.m. (9a.m. to 4p.m. Saturday).

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New Business and Discussion of Future Concerns

- **Property and Maintenance Concerns:** as presented by Father Ken
 - Display screens behind the altar.
 - Head of "Property Ministry";
 - Rectory roof and walls.
 - Church front steps.
 - Parking lot re-surfacing.
- **Ministry Feedback:** Jim Gallagher presented a plan to have Parish Council members call ministry leads on a rolling basis to bring status back to the council.
- Contact sheet for all ministry heads was provided.
- Motion to approve by Rosemary, Jim seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- **Parish Census, Registration Concerns:** to be taken up at February meeting.

- How to register, how to verify who is registered.
- **Stewardship bulletin insert** is Christian, but not Catholic.
- **Concerns for use of donated funds** going to people teaching religion, but not teaching the Catholic religion. Example was Bibles being paid for and presented to a Grafton Boys Club.
- **Come Home for Lent:** As a “Come home for Christmas” theme is advertised in the Grafton News to bring people back to Church, it was proposed that we similarly initiate a “Come home for Lent” theme.

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. with a **Closing Prayer** as offered by Father Ken.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ron Jendrysik, Secretary.