

St. Patrick Parish Council minutes, November 13, 2023

Present: Monsignor Dempsey, Jennifer Boldry, Peggy Gaier, Pat McCaskey, Madeleine McCoy, Pat Plodzeen, Ramiro Roman, Madeleine Slingerland, Michael Wodarczyk

Absent: Alejandro Quiroz

- 1. Welcome** – Pat McCaskey welcomed everyone.
- 2. Opening prayer** - Ramiro Roman
- 3. Minutes from September 11, 2023 meeting** – Peggy Gaier asked for a motion to approve.
- 4. Pastor's report – Monsignor Dempsey**

Based on the annual count taken at masses in October every year, Mass attendance is up 14%, but it's still less than in 2019, before the pandemic.

There have been many people commenting to Monsignor over the years asking why we don't have a cross in church with the image of Jesus on it as other churches have. The current cross was donated by Fr. McNulty & his sister when our new church was built. It is appropriate to have a crucifix with the image of Jesus, & so we will have a new cross & a new statue of the Holy Family. The Celtic design will be retained for the cross, & the Statue of the Holy Family will be multi colored. Cost is approximately \$140,000, & \$130,000 in donations have been pledged by several parishioners.

The Finance committee & the Parish Council have both approved this project, which will take approximately 6 months before completion.

Ministry Reports

Men's Group -Michael Wodarczyk reported 1st Friday masses are well attended.

Several from the Men's group hosted Hot Dog Day at MBTA for Halloween, & \$5,000 was donated to the school.

There will be a Bear's Football Watch party & fundraising on November 27.

The Blood drive will take place on December 3.

Women's Group – Peggy Gaier reported the Women's Group's host a wine tasting night this Friday, November 17 in the Parish Center.

The Christmas program & lunch will be on Friday, December 1, in the Parish Center. The owner of Hansa Coffee, in Libertyville, will give a presentation about the history of coffee, providing tastings, etc. Lunch will be catered by Lovell's restaurant.

Trivia Night is planned for Feb. 3, 2024, in the Parish Center.

We may host a fish fry with the Men's Group on a Fri. night in Lent if we can find a vendor. The supplier for the fish we had before the pandemic is no longer in business. Jenny will contact St. Mary's to see who they are using.

The Women's Group visited the Forester Hotel as a possible new location for the St. Patrick party this year, but they only had room for 3-4 people in a band so the space wasn't large enough. We are planning on possibly having the party in the Parish Center although there will be more work required, possibly renting a dance floor, getting a caterer, bartenders, etc. We always try to keep prices as reasonable as possible & it hasn't been determined if we will include any beer/wine with the ticket price or not. A liquor license may be required & Jenny Boldry will get this if necessary.

The date for the party is Friday., March 15, 2024, because the band we had last year (Not for Profit Band) isn't available on Saturday, & they were popular last year with everyone for dancing.

The Women's Group Spring Luncheon is Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Conway Farms Golf Club.

Religious Education – Pat Plodzeen reported there is still a need for one 4th grade CCD teacher on Mondays, & an 8th grade Confirmation teacher starting in January, 2024, for every other Sunday, from 4-5:30pm. Confirmation will take place in May, 2024.

There will be a family movie night again this year, on Sunday, December 3, & they will watch "Polar Express."

Christmas concert will take place on Saturday, December 9, & there are approximately 30 children singing in the concert.

Old Business

Ramiro Roman reported on the annual dinner with St. Mary's & Holy Cross' parish councils. (He first called for a silent prayer for Greg Volpentesta, who was on the Parish Council before he passed, & this dinner was his project.) The dinner was fun, great food, & everyone shared ideas. This dinner may happen more often than once per year.

Pat Plodzeen reported the hospitality Sunday hosted by the Parish Council on October 29, went well. She thanked Madeleine M., Madeleine S., Peggy, & Jenny for their help.

Jenny Boldry will coordinate a time to take a picture of our 2 new Parish Council members for the picture frame in the hallway.

New Business

Pat Plodzeen will give Monsignor Dempsey the results of the Diocese Marker Index Survey, which showed our parishioners have positive feelings for our parish, have a strong faith, & that 78% would recommend St. Patrick. Our results are above average.

Next Meeting dates: January 8, March 11, May 13, & September 9, 2024

In January the opening prayer will be said by Madeleine Slingerland, & the closing prayer will be said by Ramiro Roman.

Suggestion box – Pat McCaskey reported there was 1 suggestion which said, “Bring back donut Sundays.”

Closing prayer was said by Madeleine McCoy

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy Gaier