

St. Mary's Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 @ 6:30 PM ST. Paul Hall

Opening Prayer: Lead by Father Dan

Father Dan led with opening prayer at 6:30

Mission Statement: St Mary's of the Assumption Parish is a Eucharistic community sharing God's faith, hope and love. We strive through liturgy, sacraments, ministries, education and outreach to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our world.

1. Lots of different initiatives to go over – Father Dan
 - a. Youth and family engagement
 - i. Fallen by the wayside, diocese sending quarterly updates with resources for youth and family engagement
 - ii. NCCL - had an initial zoom meeting.
 1. Looking for people to get involved in this, one year of planning
 2. Winter, Spring and Fall workshop in order to improve families with center of family and faith engagement
 - iii. Catholic Extension
 1. Scholarship program
 - a. Qualified or eligible up to \$15,000
 - b. Had a meeting last week with Catholic Extension
 - i. The came with questions
 1. Name challenges in family and faith
 2. Cultural and Family religions
 2. In order to keep faith in community
 - a. Faith, belonging, and freedom to learn on their own
 - b. Safe place to be themselves
 - c. Team “lock in” – teens planning events themselves
 3. Parishes can do
 - a. Opportunities not road blocks
 - b. Be more welcoming and sense of belonging
 - c. Child care at events, for parishioners to come that need it
 - d. Be willing to put money into the youth
 - e. Family mentorship for those in need
 4. Really need to work on
 - a. Communication within the family of parishes
 - b. Possibilities
 - i. Parishioner from each parish be representative?
 - ii. Social media opportunities
 1. IG, Snapchat, different channels of communication
 2. Add discussion about communication to the family of parishes.
 3. Communications committee?
 - a. Ways to improve communication

- b. Evaluate what we are using now
 - c. Bulletin consolidation about a year ago, should we do the same with our websites?
- 5. Parishes subsidizing our Catholic Schools
 - a. Regina, Assumption, HTC
 - i. A new model
 - ii. Not a 60% model anymore
 - iii. Scholarships and helping pave the way for parish families first
 - iv. Cost last year was about \$11,800
 - 1. Almost two time the amount we (HTC) charges for tuition
- 6. Advent is coming up
 - a. 33 days of Eucharistic glory
 - b. 4 study groups going on
 - i. St. Boniface after mass
 - ii. Several days during the week throughout the 4 parishes.
 - iii. Communal Reconciliation
 - iv. Building Jessie Trees this year
- 7. National Catholic Youth Conference
 - a. Starting now with fundraising
 - b. 8 adults and 13 kids committed to this year
- 8. Different areas of ministry
 - a. Different people within parishes assigned to the different aspects of ministry
 - b. 2 feet newsletter comes out once a month
 - i. Different ideas of what to do
 - ii. One foot is direction and immediate change
 - iii. Second foot is policy change, long lasting change
 - c. Ask yourself, what are you doing in this area of ministry?
 - d. A lot more that we can do to get involved and take action
- 9. Bonita and Kent Wright are new parish council members for St. Mary's
 - a. They come from Washington state, welcome

2. Question – Jill Garmoe

- a. How much detail is needed for the parish newsletter
- b. Answer: Father Dan
 - i. 4 pages
 - ii. Different items of information to be involve
 - iii. Sacramental record, financial record
 - 1. Couple paragraphs of what St. Mary's did this year
 - iv. Published by January 8, 2025
 - v. Email copy to parish office and hard copy to Father Dan, send to Rebecca Hannum

3. St. Johns created a new Rosary Garden
 - a. No statue of Mary yet, but concrete pad is set for it
4. St. James
 - a. New construction with concrete around the campus
 - b. Getting refabricated windows
5. Successful All Souls Day
 - a. 44 members were celebrated

Large Group (4 parish cluster)

1. Guest offertory envelopes – Sydney Foecke
 1. Do we have envelopes for guests?
 2. Opportunity for cash and let us know who they are
 1. Contact information and a “get to you know you”
 2. Welcoming and belonging brainstorm for new parishioners in the community
 3. Bonita – New member and is an advocate for the envelope process
 1. Sometimes people want to join but not sure of how to join
 1. Take a progressive initiative to approach them
 4. Very least put something in the bulletin

Small Group (St. Mary’s)

Consent Agenda Approval – President Sydney Foecke called meeting to order at 7:25 pm

1. Matthew Garmoe and Kevin Rauenbuehler - SCF and FF
 1. Income Report for Fall Festival
 1. About \$280k when all said and done
 2. Concerns with timeframe on Fall Festival
 1. Need to look at timing
 2. Next 3-5 years something needs to change or we will take a hit financially
 3. Auctioneer concern
 1. Weary of home football games, we lose auctioneers
 4. Length of event and time of year is the event
 1. Commitment of the auctioneers if difficult
 2. Other obligations for them make if trying to get them to commit
 5. Decline of participants
 1. Generational decline in population
 2. Getting workers to fill the slots
 3. 400 parishioner families and can’t get people to sign up
 4. Volunteers are wore out before they get to festival, volunteer fatigue
 3. Exploring Solutions
 1. Getting other parishes involved
 1. Option #1
 1. Terminate our involvement with Sweet Corn Festival

2. Gala type event 1st weekend of March
2. Option #2
 1. Four to five hour FF event on the first Sunday in March
 2. Having an event with the other parishes, 4th Friday or Saturday of August. Gala type Catered meal
 3. Four to five hour event on same date on second weekend of October. Reducing the auction to 6 to 7 hours.
2. Parish Response
 1. Do we change anything we are told to change?
 2. We can't afford to wait on this, need to act
 3. How many families in the 4 parishes
 1. 380ish households (St. Mary's)
 2. Active households is probably half of that
 3. 900 total (roughly) within 4 parishes
3. Need to maintain our own parish identity
 1. But need to work together in order to achieve progress
4. Why March
 1. Break from Winter but weary of vacations and spring breaks
 2. March 17is for Spring Break universally
 3. Any later you get into planting season, graduation
4. Matthew Garmoe commitment going forward
 1. Sweet Corn Festival (Kevin Raunbuehler will be stepping away)
 1. 2025 – Event Lead
 2. 2026 and beyond – Advisory lead and oversee financials. Assist in supplies and cooking of food
 2. Fall Festival
 1. 2025 – Event Lead
 2. 2026 and beyond – Advisory lead, oversee financials. Will be around to help
5. Ideas for progressive
 1. Fall Festival
 1. Not as much participation but still can bring in 225k a year
 2. Income portion of grain sales must happen sometime in the fall
 1. Grain sales shouldn't be too much an issue
 2. Possibility of all parishes involved in one grain sale
 3. Trisha Lake – Possible silent auction if you make an event smaller
 4. Meet with other festivals
 1. What they agree on and what can be excluded as far as ideas and brainstorming go
 2. Houghton shortened their festival and changed up food
 1. Down a little financially but a success
 2. If we were to push of until 2026 will we be hurt financially
 1. Bishop – says non parishioners pay full tuition
 1. Everybody get \$7800 from the state
 3. Bottom line
 1. Need to decide on commitment to Sweet Corn Festival in 2025

1. Attendance – all were in attendance
 1. Council Member: Jason Ridgeway, Sydney Foecke, Trisha Lake, Bonita Wright, Kent Wright, Nic Chiri and Special Guest – Rebecca Hannum
2. Approval of Agenda
 1. Motion – Jason Ridgeway
 2. Second – Trisha Lake
3. Approval of October Minutes
 1. Motion – Jill Garmoe
 2. Second – Jason Ridgeway

Reports & Updates:

1. Religious Education & Family Ministry Report
 1. No comments
2. School Board Report
 1. No comments

Old Business:

1. Parish council members - still need 1 more
 1. Kent Wright is new member
2. Mowing/Trimming on the church premises - Rebecca was going to check with Brian Schmitz
 1. Rebecca called Brian Schmitz – no answer
 2. Double checking on mowing and trimming this week
 3. Will email members with details
3. Website/Calendar communication link to Rebecca
 1. Send link to calendars to members
4. Handicap parking - are we getting someone lined up for painting or waiting until spring?
 1. Waiting to decide until Spring
 2. Need to get with Father Dan about locations of handicapped spaced
5. Adoration - Father mentioned advent adoration hours - Need to finalize this
 1. Need to decide on Adoration hours
 2. Advent starts December 1 (New year's resolution instead)
 1. Wednesdays in January – 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th at 7-8:30p
 1. Requirements are that you need 2 people in for an hour
 2. Talk with Deacon Mike Linnenbrink
 3. Rebecca checking on people to pose and repose
6. December 1st Christmas Light viewing - finalize details (vehicles/drivers, supper, etc.)
 1. Starting in West Point to meet and go to Rand Park (Keokuk) first and then to Mt. Pleasant
 1. Matt Garmoe will cook pork loin for meal
 2. Will know by Friday (11/15/24) with details for Light Viewing

New Business:

2. Christmas decorations for lamp post
 1. Finance council may need involvement for purchase
 2. 4 foot lit wreath if \$400 a piece (6 total) ~\$2400
 3. Need to figure out who and what equipment to be used
 4. May have to wait until next year to decorate
 5. Follow up in January – possibly on sale after holidays

3. Synod Year 1 was Welcoming & Belonging, Year 2 (this year) Youth and Family Engagement, Year 3 (next year) Catechesis.
 - a. Welcoming & Belonging ideas
 - a. Youth and Family Engagement ideas
 1. Will table this item until next meeting

2. Communications with our family of Parishes
 1. Share websites across all four parishes
 2. Combine and restructure and build a new website
 3. Combining will require a new website domain name
 4. Will need to reach out and or hire a new company to help with the website build
 5. It was decided as a Parish Council that we are in favor of combining all four parishes into one website domain.
 6. Possible push options for mobile devices and email
 1. Visited with Sign-Up Genius, Connect
 2. Flock Note – similar to Team Reach, Heja applications
 3. Need multiple avenues, not just one reaching media
 4. Could have singular app dedicated to parish

3. Year-end review with Father Dan
 1. Wagner Building
 2. Corn Festival
 3. Fall Festival
 4. Parish Picnic
 5. 3 on 3
 6. Donut Sundays
 7. Mom and Mimosas
 8. End of month meals
 9. Encounter meetings
 10. Vacation bible study's
 11. Rural life blessing

4. Grain sales/ Possible alternatives for Fall Festival
 1. Possible dinner for donor and purchaser
 2. Buy tickets for meal
 3. Possible Gala in the Spring
 1. Silent Auction in gym
 2. Catalog for bigger items
 3. \$75 per ticket that includes meal, drinks, tickets
 1. Kids sign up to be a runner for silent auction

-
2. Round tables, fancy and dressed up.

Adjourn: 8:40 pm

Motion – Jill Garmoe

Second – Jason Ridgeway

Closing Prayer

Hail Mary