



St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes – November 14, 2018

7:00 pm meeting called to order by Tom Rechen

In Attendance: Father Matera, Tom Rechen, Sean Hughes, Meg Keating, Rick Lenz, Daria Mauro, David Croke, Larry Christian, Leon Rippel, Chris Becker, Lily Fleming.

Absent: Betty Bible, Gavin Hughes, Tim Sullivan

Opening Prayer by Fr. Matera

PASTOR'S REPORT

1. This weekend, the third Sunday of the month, we will have our third round of testimonials from parishioners about their faith.
2. The Campus Construction Project is progressing, almost on schedule.
 - a. The big challenge, which is weather dependent, is to complete paving by the beginning of December. Parishioners have been very cooperative.
 - b. Teri St Denis and Joanne Russell have done a great deal of planning for our move which will take place in early late winter/early Spring
 - c. The Lower church will be the Faith Formation Center
3. We are presently addressing several facility issues: replacement of AC, new gutters for church, side walk repairs, new lighting rods for school
4. Average Mass attendance during the month of October was 785
 - a. Oct 6 684
 - b. Oct 13 924
 - c. Oct 20 740
 - d. Oct 27 792
5. The Archbishop has asked every pastor to nominate four parishioners to be delegates to the Synod, two of which will be picked

An idea was given to host a Spring Open House of the new building. Father may ask the Archbishop for his blessing and dedication. The Open House would be extended to all parishioners and even non-parishioners. David Carter will be writing an article on the new building for The Valley Press.

OLD BUSINESS:

REACHING NEW AND YOUNG FAMILIES—to be discussed at a future meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBER FROM SAINT BERNARD

- Father will contact person he, Tom Rechen, and Sean Hughes have selected and this will be discussed at December meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

LITURGY – Larry Christian

- The Liturgy Committee will be meeting in December to plan for Christmas and Lent. Daria Mauro will be part of this committee to help ushers also serve as greeters. A new Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist has been trained.

Father Matera spoke about the four different communities at each Mass:

- 5 p.m. Saturday Mass has good singing.
- 8 a.m. Mass is a stable group of worshippers; professional cantor
- 9:30 a.m. Mass has young families; Lepak music is exhilarating; it has a different feel when the Religious Ed students are not there.
- 11 a.m. Mass has the Senior Choir. Stronger singing is needed from congregation. Most worshippers sit in the same place; it is a very hectic time for Father and at times people will approach him with various questions.

Discussion of when we are most engaged during the Mass:

- Liturgy of the Word and homilies given by Father Matera and Deacon Art are relevant to everyday life.
- Themes that tie homilies from week to week are very helpful.
- Coach Bobby Joe works for Religious Ed students.
- Hand motions to songs for Religious Ed students are positive.
- Contemporary music reaches many people. Many of their songs during reception of Holy Eucharist are very moving.
- Serving as a Lector and/or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is a valuable way to be engaged. Suggestion for EM s to smile to show the joy of receiving Jesus.

Discussion of when we are not as engaged during the Mass, and what we may do better:

- Liturgy of the Eucharist is the same from week to week, and it can be a challenge to keep the mind from wandering. A suggestion that the Friday Morning Men's Group helps parishioners delve deeper and find a greater understanding
- Some music is not upbeat.
- A suggestion to have a book or basket of intentions that can be filled out before Mass and then prayed over during Mass may be something that can be considered.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE—Chris Becker

- Next meeting is set for December 6.
- Kathleen Keating asked Suzanne Croke to fill a vacancy for middle school and Suzanne accepted. Kathleen is talking to parents to represent the high school program.
- Sixth-grade lectors are beginning to read at the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

- Living Rosary was postponed until warmer weather arrives.
- Night in Bethlehem will take place in church on Saturday, December 8 after the 5 p.m. Mass.
- Teens and catechists in our Confirmation Prep program shared positive feedback on the Mass that Father celebrated during the session. They appreciate it very much.
- Lectio Divina during LOFT Nights has been well received. Teens said they have been inspired to pray with scripture on their own.

SOCIAL ACTION AND OUTREACH –Leon Rippel

Simsbury Food Pantry

On Sunday, October 28, we had our monthly food collection of canned goods, pasta, and other non-perishables at all Masses. The collection was generous.

Immacare

On Monday, October 29, a meal was prepared for Immacare. Contact: Tracey Roderick. The next meal is on Monday, November 19.

Mercy Shelter

Desserts and fruits were collected for the meal prepared by St. Mary parishioners for the shelter on Oct. 7 Contact: Ted Molloy 860-846-0419.

House of Bread

On Nov. 11 frozen meatloaves were collected for the House of Bread to assist in their ongoing lunch and evening meals.

St. Justin-St. Michael Catholic Church Malta Food Pantry

On December 2, our collection will be for the food pantry at St. Justin-St. Michael Church on Blue Hills Avenue in Hartford. They recently combined their parishes due to the downsizing of churches throughout the archdiocese. We will be collecting canned soups, stews, pasta and other non-perishables.

Simsbury Social Services Dept.

The Town of Simsbury has requested folks to assist in picking up food in Avon and Simsbury for the Simsbury Food Pantry. They are also in need of folks to assist in stocking the shelves.

South Park Inn

On December 9th, we will be collecting new underwear for men, women and children (15 children presently at shelter). They are also in need of gently used towels, washcloths, sheets, pillowcases and band-aids.

ADULT ENRICHMENT AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT –Betty Bible was absent.

FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT –Rick Lenz.

Finance Council last met on October 21st

- 1) Major focus points: monthly financial review, Campus Connection update, completion of parish audit by archdiocese, a look at some projected capital needs of the parish and planning for the 2019 budget
- 2) Monthly financial review through September, with ¾'s of the year in the books:
 - Total offertory YTD \$3300 below budget (about \$7300 ahead of last year)
 - Total revenue YTD just \$358 below budget (thanks principally to stronger than expected carnival and Granny's Attic results)
 - Total expenses YTD \$16,914 below budget, based in part on better expense management
 - Net deficit of \$12,328 YTD, which is about \$16,500 better than budget. (Remember, unexpected cathedraticum increase added some \$15,000 to our budget in February of this year)
- 3) Capital needs planning discussion focused on most pressing issues for coming year, including campus sidewalk repairs, re-keying other campus facilities to match new keys for Campus Connection project and refinishing church wooden floors and pews. Options and dollars available for these projects still under discussion and will be part of the 2019 budget planning process that will be continued at this month's meeting

SCHOOL BOARD – Tim Sullivan was absent.

YOUTH REPORT— Lily Fleming

- Ignite Youth Ministry baked over 100 cookies in one hour in the parish center kitchen. Cookies were mailed to college students who were confirmed at St. Mary's.
- Movie Night was a hit with teens who saw "God's Not Dead".
- Great turnout of teens at Walmart for the scavenger hunt to create 12 home care kits for Hartford transitional housing. Teens were given a list and a budget. Teens donated \$5.00 and parents donated more.
- November 30 the Calcutta Project will cook a meal in the parish center and transport it to ImmaCare in Hartford and serve the meal as well.
- Bowling at Blue Fox will take place on Sunday, December 2 immediately after Confirmation Prep.
- Night in Bethlehem will be in December 8 after the 5 p.m. Mass.

CLOSING PRAYER—Night Prayer from Liturgy of the Hours led by Father Matera