

Mary, Mother of Mercy
Parish Council Meeting of 1/9/2020 ~ Minutes

Present: Tim Davis, Laurenda Denmark, Tom Duff, Gerry Frank, Susan Guydosh, Scott Hamula, Leo Kawczenski, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Nancy McGourty, Andrew Morpurgo, Charles Mullins, Richard Pell, Kathleen Rourke, Lynne Stager, and Barbara Willers

Guest: Lee Anne Fox

Excused: Mark Albanese

Absent: Jackie Leidenfrost, Thomas Perry

Opening Prayer: On grace, led by Fr. Bernard

Minutes: The minutes for the September 12, 2019, meeting were discussed. Should the minutes be just the facts or convey a sense of the conversation? The secretary agreed to submit amended minutes prior to the council's next meeting. Other corrections noted.

Committee Reports:

Witness Committee (outreach, social action) report by Leo Kawczenski:

- See report provided prior to meeting
- There were 60 tickets provided for families through the Seneca Gift Christmas project
- The Share the Warmth box on the St. James rectory porch was a success; ditto the mitten tree at St. James.
- Souper Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday will collect non-perishable food and/or money. Everything collected will go to local food pantries
- We need someone to spearhead the Diocese's Public Policy weekend with petitions to be signed. Right now it goes to the Witness committee to implement. Our parish participates every year.

Fellowship committee (social activity and communication) report by Scott Hamula and Nancy McGourty:

- The "Sweet" Sunday on the first Sunday of each month at St. James was nicely set up with excellent baked goods. Good number of people attending. Susan did a good job with kids during the event, working on nice ornaments.
- There will be a social after Mass at HC on Christmas Eve
- A number of people have expressed an interest in joining the fellowship committee. Father will give a list of volunteers to Scott.
- We need someone to coordinate an event for St. Patrick's day. Dinner dance?
- Consider Lodi fire hall as a possible place for functions, with caterer.
- Suggestion to have an event to thank everyone who helps out at church. An Appreciation Dinner?

Word committee (education and evangelization) report by Andrew Morpurgo:

- The committee hasn't met since the previous council meeting but they will soon be meeting to discuss next year's courses.
- The Catholicism classes seem to be going well. "Fr. Barron is good."
- Good things have been heard about people's reaction to "Letter to a Suffering Church" which is available in all 3 churches.
- Most copies of "Word Among Us" were picked up by people and some contributed \$10.
- Historically we order little books for Lent, about a 100 or so. A larger version is better because it includes daily readings from Mass. Has Eileen ordered yet for Lent? Andy will check. Good to put these out 3 weeks before Ash Wednesday, ask for donations, put in bulletin. Are these booklets taken to our shut-ins?
- There is a new student in our 8th grade confirmation class
- Lynne called people who weren't attending religious education classes this year. Spoke to 3 people and left messages. Three people were planning on sending their kids to Rel. ed.

Worship committee (liturgy) report by Tom Duff and Tim Davis:

- The People in the Pews subcommittee will be focusing on communications in the new year.
- The new daily Mass schedule is in effect. Not sure if there is a schedule as to who serves as lector or EM on various days.
- Music at HC is losing some people. Need someone to lead the choir.
- Music at St. James is "sad" and "will fall apart if it isn't dealt with." Joan was going to St. James but that has stopped. She was recommended to be our organist by her predecessor and she was originally hired to provide music at St. Francis. She was willing to go and support the music at St. James and to participate in the liturgical planning committee. She also helps out at HC when asked, and also for funerals. Right now she has pulled back and will only do the music at St. F.
- A communication went out to the main people involved in music and next Wed. there will be a meeting to discuss parish-wide music concerns and plans. Those invited were asked to invite others to this meeting. The parish needs to get a sense of direction as to where we should go to make a music environment that will enhance the liturgy.
- Someone mentioned a church in the Adirondacks that used a CD for music. This is not allowed by the Church.
- Some questions were raised: "Would it help to not keep changing Gloria and other parts of the Mass that are sung?" "We need a leader, Mass parts, and hymns that people are familiar with using." It was pointed out that the music selections for all three churches are chosen by the liturgy committee well in advance of each Sunday.
- The situation is difficult, affecting the entire liturgy, especially at St. James.
- It was noted that practicing music and talking before Mass is still happening at St. James, and it is distracting.
- General discussion about music situation at St. James. Opinions expressed include that it is upsetting people and is distracting from the liturgy. "Getting worse."
- Father explained some of the rubrics for music. There should be music when during entrance procession, offertory, communion, and recessional. The music should enhance the liturgical experience. It is "heartwarming" to hear congregation joining in the music.
- There was some confusion for EMs as to when they should go up to the altar. Father said they should come up right after "Lord I am not worthy..."

- The *Ithaca Journal* listed local Christmas Masses but not ours. How to make it happen? *Fingerlakes Times* mentioned all three of our church times.
- A post card may be sent out for Lent/Easter. This will be discussed further by People in Pews and Worship committee. “Numbers are down.”

Finance Council report by Lee Anne Fox

- The Finance council has not yet met, they will meet later this month.
- No report yet on Christmas collections

Building and Grounds:

- Approval for the St. James parking lot and sidewalks is still on hold with the diocese.
- B&G meetings have been held by each church. The meetings seem to be getting shorter as there are fewer projects to discuss.

Other business:

- Father’s vacation: he will be gone from Jan. 29 through the end of February. He is not yet sure if he will be back by Ash Wednesday or not. Fr. Richard will be covering the Masses and any liturgical needs.
- Fr. Bernard will be covering two weekends this month at St. Catherine in Ithaca.
- There will be no confessions in the parish during February unless Fr. R. is called directly to make an appointment. Confessions times at area churches will be noted on our web page and elsewhere.
- Note that alternative council members should be attending these meetings.
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Next meeting: March 12, 2020

Closing prayer: Thanksgiving for people who are here in Jesus’s name, led by Fr. Bernard

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke