

Parish of Mary Mother of Mercy  
Parish Council Meeting  
November 10, 2022; 7:00 p.m.  
St. Francis Solanus

**In attendance:** Marc Albanese, Alba Betancourt-Trompa, Tim Davis, Gerry Frank, Susan Gydosh, Scott Hamula, Leo Kawczenski, Jackie Leidenfrost, Father Bernard Maloney, Andy Morpurgo, Charlie Mullins, Dick Pell, Karen Salino, Lynne Stager, Russ Wedemeyer, Barb Willers, Ray Zajac, **Excused:** Martha Wooledge, **Absent:** Bill Connor

**Opening prayer**

**Minutes approved**

**Word Committee:** Lynne Stager gave report. (Full report emailed prior to meeting.)

- Four children are enrolled in the Religious Education class with two for First Communion. The program meets monthly. Five children are enrolled in the Confirmation program which meets weekly.
- Lynne Stager researched Eucharist Revival ideas and found several resources.

Follow-up comments:

- Father Bernard discussed statistics for families with school aged children. There are many school-aged children in our records, but most families are inactive.
- There was one baptism this year and three last year.
- Tim Davis suggested that if we can't get families here, we go to them and have a community presence. Andy Morpurgo noted that religious education numbers are down in nearby parishes, too.
- Father Bernard commented that we must rejoice with people who do come and focus on activities for seniors. The confirmation program also has three adults.

**Fellowship Committee:** Russ Wedemeyer gave report. (A full report was emailed prior to meeting.)

- Russ Wedemeyer discussed a gathering a week before Christmas. A consideration he had was how to collaborate with the Worship Committee for decorations. The event would be held at St. James because they have the most appropriate facilities.

Follow-up comments:

- Father Bernard and Scott Hamula discussed the need for volunteers and how to get them. Susan Gydosh said the best way is to ask individuals directly.
- Tim Davis suggested that the planning committee be realistic about who and how many will be attracted to the event and to figure out a balance for volunteers and who to plan activities for. Russ Wedemeyer said the activities can be geared toward all ages.

**Witness Committee:** Gerry Frank gave report (A full report was emailed prior to meeting)

- The coat distribution gave out 88 coats in Ovid. The Christmas project is underway, and tags are ready for trees at St. Francis and Holy Cross. 19 people receive cards through the card ministry, and 12 people are signed up to send cards.
- Karen Salino said the Crop Walk was well attended, but it would be good to have more people next year.
- Lynne asked about birth right donations and the mitten tree and volunteered to help with both.
- Father said the used coat box is out at Saint James. He also reported that there was a wonderful response for clothing for refugees, and the clothing will be delivered to Brooklyn.

**Worship Committee:** Barb Willers gave the report (full report emailed prior to meeting)

- The Thanksgiving Mass will be a vigil mass. Father Bernard has since rethought this and is having doubts about attendance. Tim Davis said try something new, and if it doesn't work out, the parish can go back to Thanksgiving Day Mass next year.
- The 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass was not well attended so St. James will only have the 4:00 p.m. Mass.
- There is still no communion under both species.
- The parish still needs music support for weekend liturgies.
- Saint James needs a new decorator.

#### **Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Cemetery:**

The annual financial report was sent to parishioners.

#### **Other Business:**

- Tim Davis asked about the recent updates for the Diocesan Bankruptcy. Father said we don't know the implications yet.
- Susan Guydosh clarified bulletin announcement deadlines. Announcements need to be in two Fridays prior to desired bulletin, or the Monday prior at the very latest.
- Susan Guydosh can help set up zoom meetings.

**Next meeting is January 12, 2023.**

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer**