

Parish of Mary Mother of Mercy
Parish Council Meeting
January 12, 2023; 7:00 p.m.
St. Francis Solanus

In attendance: Marc Albanese, Tim Davis, Gerry Frank, Susan Guydosh, Scott Hamula, Leo Kawczenski, Father Bernard Maloney, Andy Morpurgo, Dick Pell, Karen Salino, Russ Wedemeyer, Barb Willers **Guest:** Eileen Heptig, Business Manager **Excused:** Bill Connor, Jackie Leidenfrost, Charles Mullins, Lynne Stager **Absent:** Alba Betancourt-Trompa

Opening prayer

Minutes Approved

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

- The Christmas gathering in December was successful. Two families with children attended the Christmas event. A parishioner donated ornaments for decorating. Father Bernard was surprised by the amount and variety of desserts and suggested just advertising that aspect would be good.
- The committee is discussing a Mardi Gras or Valentine's Day social.

2. Worship Committee: Barb Willers gave the report. (A full report was emailed prior to the meeting.)

- Bad weather on Christmas Eve may have contributed to low numbers at Holy Cross.
- If someone needs a priest, reach out to Father Chumo while Father Richard is at the prison
- Ash Wednesday schedule is still in discussion, possibly two services and one Mass
- There was discussion of having a holy hour during Lent on Wednesdays at St. Francis Solanus consisting of Stations and Benediction.
- "Word of God Sunday" is coming up.
- There was discussion of a Lenten study. This would need to go to the Word Committee
- The Triduum schedule last year worked so it will likely be used again this year.

Follow up comments:

- Fr Bernard said there definitely will be an 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis by Father Richard on Ash Wednesday.
- Gerry Frank will let Susan know about stations and soup during Lent at Holy Cross.
- Someone will pull 19 Missals from churches for Father to bring to the homebound with communion.

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

- Gerry Frank discussed the success of the Christmas project in Seneca County, the card ministry, and the Food pantries. February 12 is Souper bowl Sunday. He suggested our parish participate and collect dry goods for the 3 local food pantries.

- The mitten tree at St. James was a big success and next year collect our church might consider collecting something other than hats/mittens etc.
- Father reminded Council members that announcements in the bulletin should appear 4 times/ 4 weeks in advance.

4. Word Committee: No Word Committee report

Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Cemetery:

- Eileen Heptig shared that church attendance is up in the last 6 months. The church has 43 online donors, and a third of ordinary giving is online. More opportunities to give to different collections are being placed on the giving website. The Christmas collection increased. Cemeteries donation numbers went up. Fuel, electric and plowing are down, but mowing costs increased at Holy Cross. Overall, things are generally on budget.
- Tim Davis asked if there are settlement implications yet. Father Bernard said there are no specifics yet.
- Parish Council discussed ways to push online giving. Two ideas were a note in tax statements and a bulletin announcement.
- The water in the St. Francis basement still needs to be tracked down.

Other Business:

- Two people resigned from Parish Council. Bill Connor and Russ Wedemeyer are promoted to their places.
- Father discussed declining populations in churches. Up to 20% of people are not affiliated. How do we invite them back? He asked that the Council bring ideas for next meeting. Tim Davis will provide a framework.
- Father also encouraged having committee meetings in the off month, not right before Parish Council meeting. He encouraged committees to meet in February while he is gone. He doesn't need to be at the meetings.

Next meeting is March 9, 2023.

Closed with the Hail Mary