

*St. John the Evangelist  
Parish Council Minutes  
Monday, October 9, 2017 7:00 PM*

*Quorum – Two-thirds of the Parish Council Voting Membership was present.*

Members Present:

Msgr. Michael Becker	Patrick Podoletz	Robert Olson	Wally Wargo
Christopher Palazzi	Cecelia Bloom	Carolyn Fye	Michael Greslick
Christopher Ringkamp	Patrick Schurr	Deacon Gene Neral	Mary Haenig
Debbie Johnson			

Members Absent:

James Campbell	Fran Semelsberger	Cynthia Karcher	Mary Ann Mirobelli
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1. **Prayer & Opening**
2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Bob Olson motioned to approve minutes, Chris Palazzi seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by all present

3. **Old Business:**

a) **Wine & Apple Cider Review**

The event was very well received; and it seems as though the time change to after the 4 p.m. mass was a great idea. The timing for these types of events is critical, so having time before / after mass is best.

b) **Financial Statement to Parishioners**

St. Mary in Hollidaysburg has provided a simplified annual report in their bulletin at the end of the fiscal year. This type of simplified annual report will be put in our bulletin for all to see. It *should* be available for council to review at the next meeting and, when approved, will be in the bulletin. If it is requested to have the full blown report (the entire fiscal report), they can call the office and get it.

4. **New Business:**

a) **Discussion – In what direction should we lead our parish?**

Since the school has been closed it seems as though there has been a bit of a loss in direction for the church. Are we doing enough? Should something be done to take its place? Chris R. has shared a document with the council that explains the direction that most pastoral councils are heading. Currently we have a near sighted plan with the committee reports and only seem to plan for the near future. Many councils are moving to include a 1, 2 or even 5-year pastoral plan on how to expand their faith in the community. Considering long term goals and planning further in the future will be a direction that the council is interested in



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heading. This has to include input from the diocese because of the "fear" of consolidation.

Other questions and topics that the council would like to address and have more conversation on are:

- What will allow us to become more Christ centered?
- How can we expand our outreach?
- Where do we want to put our energy?
- How can we get people in the door?
- Why, as a whole in Catholicism, is participation down? What can we do differently to address those issues?
- How can we better engage new parishioners? Visit them at home? Invite them to dinner and mass?
- How do we compete with soccer, dance, swimming, etc?
- Have we considered having Life Team masses (mass for teens)?

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to table this topic for the evening to allow all council members to "chew" on this discussion until the next meeting. More to come in following meetings.

**b) January Meeting Date**

The original meeting date is January 8 but is unavailable for Monsignor Becker to attend. The meeting needs to be rescheduled because there is no meeting in December and we don't want to have 2 months without a meeting. It was agreed to reschedule this meeting for January 15th.

**c) Volunteers - Chairs & Co-Chairs - Mardi Gras Party**

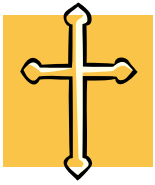
There appears to be no chair or co-chair for the Mardi Gras party. It was suggesting to all committee leaders to put a succession plan in place to have a formal chair and co-chair and information shared completely between both as a "just in case" type of scenario.

**d) St. John Feast Dinner**

The feast day of Saint John the Evangelist is Wednesday, December 27. It was suggested to have a pot luck dinner after the feast mass in the evening. This gives us a chance to get a "break" from the holidays, but won't be too much of a burden for people to handle.

**5. Committee reports:**

- a) Religious Education – No report
- b) Family Life – Carolyn Fye has reported that Dee has expressed that she wants to give up the position. Monsignor and Carolyn will get together to figure out a succession plan. It was considered to join family life with another committee.
- c) Finance – No report
- d) Haiti – Chris Palazzi had simply mentioned to the council about the upcoming trip to Haiti.



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- e) Liturgy – Bob submitted a report with all previous events as well as everything that is planned in the future. There was discussion about how to get all of these events out to the parish. We are going to look in to an entire parish calendar; perhaps on the website. Attachment.
- f) Maintenance – No report from Wally. Monsignor has mentioned that they have contracted to have soffit and fascia repaired around the gym
- g) Social – No report
- h) Stewardship – No report
- i) Youth Group – Patrick submitted to the council a list of events planned for the year. Attachment.
- j) Samaritan – Cecilia has submitted a simple report. Attachment.
- k) Women’s Group – Cecilia has reported that there is a meeting planned for October 17 to pick a project for the year and decide where their efforts are best spent.
- l) Adult Education – Monsignor has reported that adult education is going very well; the group is watching a video series from Bishop Robert Barron.

**6. Date for next meeting – Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

**7. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.