



*St. John the Evangelist
Parish Council Minutes
Monday, January 13, 2020 7:00 PM*

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

Roll Call (Checked = Present):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Msgr. Michael Becker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deacon Gene Neral	<input type="checkbox"/> Debbie Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> Jena Bowman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Fye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Greslick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Ringkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Schurr
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Bevin	<input type="checkbox"/> Betty Dennis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Andrews
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristina Hoyne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Podoletz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Yasolsky

1. Prayer & Opening

The meeting opened at 7:04 p.m. with our traditional opening prayer.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Dave Andrews made a motion to approve minutes from our previous meeting, Carolyn Fye seconded that motion. The minutes were passed unanimously by all present.

3. Old Business:

a) Emergency Action Plan

Chris discovered recently that there are recommendations from the diocese to form safety committees in each of the parishes. This committee would not only be involved with things like the emergency action plan, but also be tuned to topics like slips/trips/falls, child safety, etc. We will also schedule a yearly review of the emergency action plan as well as a refresher course to those interested in attending.

b) Divine Renovation Introduction

Since the last meeting, the members of parish council have been tasked to read a book titled Divine Renovation. This book explores ways that churches can come to a renewed parish life and engage entire communities in their mission. This book will give council members some guidance in finding new ways to bring our parish to life. An extended discussion was had about our first thoughts about the book and what our next steps may be to more effectively share the good news with all of God's people. Council members will continue reading this book and bring their thoughts to the table at the next meeting.

4. New Business:

a) Monsignor Becker's Notes



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Alan Capriotti has offered to gift the manger scene that sits in the gathering space to the church. The church would then take responsibility for storage / maintenance; this would also provide a great opportunity for the youth of the church to set up / tear down, etc.

b) Committee Reports

See attached report

5. Date for next meeting – February 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Arise Committee

The parish team met on Thursday, January 9. For Season 3 last fall we had 88 participants in 8 small groups. Sign-Up Sundays for Season 4: New Hearts, New Spirit will take place on February 1/2 and 8/9 with small groups meeting from February 22 through April 3. Arise materials for Religious Ed can be purchased online at www.renewintl.org. The diocesan Arise team is holding a convocation for parish teams, facilitators, participants and parishioners in general on January 25 in Lilly with a repeat session on January 26 in Tyrone. Details and registration information are on the flyer in the gathering space. The parish team will host a Season 4 celebration on Saturday, April 25 after the 4:00 pm mass.

Family Life (Heather)

Christmas caroling went well. We had about 25 people in total participate. We enjoyed pizza, dessert, fellowship, and singing. The temps outside were 15 with the windchill, so, we lasted one block. Overall a success.

Next year: we will highlight need for scarves in the invitation, and maybe have some from the dollar store available. We will plan on hot chocolate after, so it feels "complete" rather than just breaking up in the parking lot. And finally, we will send out a flyer to the houses around the church a week or two before, so they know we are coming, especially the local home bound folks. We were disappointed our own home bound people were not home.

Our next item is already under way. Two weeks into selling Souper Bowl day tickets we seem to be doing well. The congregation is responding very excitedly to "doing something." Many who are unable to attend are donating or buying a ticket for "one of our families who could use a dinner because they will not be in attendance. We will plan to be in the kitchen by 3pm on the 1st to start the boiling water for spaghetti. So far, we look to be well within range of the 150 hopeful goal being sold. That will give us an opportunity to profit close to \$900. (some angels are covering some of the bigger costs for the fundraiser).

Haiti Committee (Claudia)

St. John's now sponsors 80 students for the 2019-2020 school year. This is up from 66 last year. October 18, 2019, Mary Lee wired \$16,300. This amount came from sponsorships, one scholarship for one student for high school education the pumpkin festival soup sale and regular donations. Mary Lee hopes to wire another amount in March after the Souper Bowl spaghetti dinner and Ash Wednesday Soup Supper very high gas prices and shortages, along with civil unrest, are causing even more hardship than usual. Inflation is also a real concern. Mary Lee canceled the usual January trip to Marmont. In ten years, she has never had more than the usual concern for traveling to Haiti but this time she senses a grave difference, especially since protests have spread out to other cities beyond Port-au-Prince. She is truly disappointed. From March to June, right now Mary Lee only plans on the usual donations. At the end of July, we will begin the student sponsorship for the next year. Mary Lee is working on getting the student photos ready to distribute.

Maintenance Committee (Michael)

The school roof seems to be coming in desperate need of repair. Ken advised me that he has buckets strategically placed throughout the school so that the teachers have quick access to them for when it rains. Though repairing the roof in the winter may prove to be a difficult task, Ken believes that this is probably the highest priority maintenance issue that the church faces at the moment. There are concrete walkways/sidewalks that are also in need of repair. Dave Auerbeck has been repairing and patching as he can, but ultimately Ken believes that some walkways will need to be replaced. The repairs will have to also take place after the weather warms up. The boiler in the school has been running well. Ken has recently been adding a chemical treatment to the boiler water and has noticed that it generally makes the system run better.

Restore, Repair, Rejoice! Campaign (Chris)

As of January 10, the parish has received pledges of \$171,054 (or 68%) of the \$250,000 goal. Gifts received total \$134,890 (or 54% of the goal) with a remaining pledge balance of \$36,164. Approximately 140 parishioners have participated.

Samaritan (Wendy)

- Love Feast
The previous Love Feast (Nov. 9, 2019) went very smoothly, with many volunteers, according to Joyce Cunningham. However, she mentioned that other churches are picking up on the Saturdays, and as a result, Simpson Temple will be cutting back a bit on scheduling. It is possible that St. John's might have only one opportunity to serve in the upcoming year, instead of the two it usually hosts. Our next Love Feast is scheduled for Saturday, March 14. Joyce mentioned that if our opportunities are reduced, she would like to know the Council's thoughts about St. John's joining with another Lakemont church to serve just people in this area.
- Second-Sunday Food Collection
Mary Susick reported that St. John's delivers food to nine different organizations each year, twice a year to The Father's House, the Altoona Food Bank, and St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank. The Salvation Army, Altoona Rescue Mission, Family Services Shelters, American Rescue Workers, Altoona PSU Campus, and St. Luke's Episcopal all receive food once a year. A list is posted on the kiosk each December for volunteers from the parish to deliver the food for one of the months in the following year. They pack the food in their cars and deliver it to the listed shelter or food bank for that month.
- Charity Fund/Angel Tree
Susanna Tomlinson reported that the Angel Tree Project again partnered with Catholic Charities this year. She also reported for November that collections on Second Sundays totaled \$824 for September and October. Combined savings and checking totaled \$2,318.18, and expenses totaled \$2,100. She provided a list of the various checks written, which included \$100 to the Love Feast, as well as \$300 checks to the area food distribution programs, and \$200 to purchase scrip food cards for emergencies in the parish.

Social (Betty/Kristina)

St. Johns Choir did a wonderful job with the Christmas Concert on December 8. Thank you to the Deb Johnson and Choir for providing wonderful music to fill our church with parishioners as well as visitors for evening of song. Also, we had a wonderful array of cookies, sweets, and drinks to enjoy after the concert.