

St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting

Secretary's Report, January 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Joel Waldo. Dennis Jesberger read the mission statement. Council members present were Father Vince, Renee Weichert, Dennis Jesberger, John Damm, Audrey Batz, Greg Keip and Joel Waldo. Paul Maier was excused. Lisa Culek and Wendy Wilke were absent. Linda Bloom, Trustee was excused. Building and Grounds Committee members present were Ralph Breunig, Doug Lambert and Dan Weisensel.

The first part of the meeting was a joint meeting of the Parish Council and Building and Grounds Committee, to discuss and approve one of three candidates, to hire as architect for the future building project. Discussion was held, and John Damm made a motion to hire Strang, Inc., and Dan Weisensel second. A vote was taken and unanimous approval was given for Strang, Inc., by both the Parish Council and Building and Grounds. Grand Emol from the diocese will be notified of our selection.

Dan and Ralph will be contacting contractors for bids on needed repairs and projects for the current buildings to bring them up to code. The sacristy renovations are being finalized to bring us in diocesan compliance. B & G next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2018.

The secretary's report was approved by email and posted on the website and at the entrances of church.

Finance Committee – no report

Parish Life – hot chocolate and cookies will be served after mass on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Parish Life will be hosting a soup supper on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018, from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. The St. Patrick's Dance will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018.

Liturgy Committee – a meeting was held last fall, and there will be one before the start of Lent. The parish will be learning to chant parts of the missal. We will be learning different parts each season. Sara Dahl would like to help recruit new mass servers. The CCW will be purchasing new gowns for the servers. Dennis will let them know what sizes are needed.

Cemetery Committee – the updates are going well. The spring meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2018.

Religious Education – Bill Ringelstetter meets with staff at St. Olaf's. He considers these his Religious Education meetings, one of the three council members will need to attend these meetings to get updates for the council.

We discussed offering to compensate parish members who send their children to Catholic schools. These families end up leaving St Joseph because of the tuition savings offered by these parish/schools if they become members. Joel said it's not only about the money, we lose more because the pews are emptier and we've lost people we can learn from, worship with and form friendships. This topic has been on the rolling agenda for some time and it's been hard to get any real numbers in terms of how often this is happening. We only know of a few currently but what about the families we don't know personally? We were able to get dollar figures showing the member and non-member tuition rates which were surprisingly substantial. Arguments were made that these members are not leaving because of money only, the school also places responsibility and requirements that may be duplicated when staying at St Joseph. Unless you don't care what's going on with your children at school you almost have to get involved in the school/parish activities. Comments were made that often the family returns once the children get into high school but again difficult to get the numbers on how often that actually happens. Another comment, Catholic schools have many more hours with the children than we do during Catechism so it stands to reason that the sheer number of hours should result in more faithful children and we simply cannot compete. Bottom line, it's good that families are choosing Catholic schools vs. public. It was decided the topic is being removed from the agenda because no one has a clear idea of how to really make something like this work without additional administrative oversight, which St Joseph is not currently in position to undertake.

Parishioner Information and Welcome Packet – Jane Skalitzky has started assembling a booklet for parishioners and new members explaining the parish, opportunities and expectations of members. Several parishioners have edited and added input, and have passed it on to other to do the same. The booklet and information were warmly received. Thank you Jane, for getting the ball rolling, and all your hard work.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. Dennis made a motion to adjourn, Audrey second it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07.p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Weichert  
Secretary, St. Joseph Parish Council