

Parish Council Meeting
October 3, 2024

Present: Cathy Krull, Ann Spaude, Marilyn Menor, Dan VanBoxtel, Lee Rynish, Deacon Rich, Janet Brill, Jason Finn, Dori Bluma, Paula Helms, Barb Brandter, John Steltz, Joshua Counard, Steve Kemp, Kim VanHandel

Absent: Father Dass

Cathy Krull called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

Cemetery report: Cathy thanked everyone for all the work to prepare the cemetery for the Cemetery Walk event. There was a brief discussion on an area designated for a Memory Garden. Lee said at this time it needs parish participation to move it forward. Dan asked what a memory garden is and Lee gave a synopsis of what he believes it could be. Barb asked if a committee would be helpful and Lee agreed that would help move the project forward. Cathy suggested an announcement in the bulletin to ask for volunteers. A question was raised if it would affect the need for future plots and Lee said no, the parish is set for plots for many years to come.

Buildings & Grounds: Lee's report was submitted. Lee updated the council that he is still looking for a new pump for the baptismal font. He was able to repair the current one but it is only a temporary fix. Barb asked how the furnace was damaged and Lee explained that something electrical happened to the 3-phase system during the August storm. There was a brief discussion on insurance coverage, unfortunately Lee feels fairly confident there will not be coverage to cover the repair.

Christian Women: The report was submitted and reviewed. Discussion was held on any expenditures over \$500.00 need to be approved by the finance committee. This is a diocese standard that all parishes must follow.

Christian Services: No report at this time. The council is not sure if this is still an active committee.

Worship: Barb informed the council that the new parish logo was submitted and brought to the councils attention that the parish name is listed four different ways. For consistency she asked that the only name to be used going forward is St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish. Members raised concerns about adding Seymour to differentiate from the Howard parish, a brief discussion was held on how to proceed forward. Barb also shared that the doors will continue to be locked when mass begins due to the unfortunate circumstances that suspicious behavior has been observed with a local individual. The Seymour police have been notified in the event of any future occurrences and the lead ushers have been instructed on how to handle any situations that may arise.

Events & Activities: Dori gave a quick recap of her report. The Rosary will be said at the beginning of mass during the month of October. There was discussion on the Formed App regarding renewing the subscription. At this time there are approximately 67 individuals using it including St. Sebastian parishioners. Discussion was held regarding the cost and funding through the One By One campaign. St. Sebastian would also contribute to the fee. Deacon Rich and Dan both believe that with more promotion and education on how to use the app more parish members would take advantage of the service. Both feel providing another year would be beneficial. Paula will work with Dori regarding what funds would be available to renew the subscription.

Finance: Report was reviewed, there were no questions at this time.

Missionary Discipleship: Report was reviewed. Barb asked what community service for the RE students involves. John explained that it would be projects like raking leaves or any type of helping activities.

New Business:

Reviewed the mapping chart, Barb asked for any changes.

Parish Directory: Steve Kemp spoke about what the project would entail to complete. He stated that the next step would be to form a committee. Discussion was held to determine what would be included and the majority of the members feel it would be a good way to document the parishes 150th Anniversary. Cathy said she would begin to find individuals to form a committee.

Parish Phase 3: Deacon Rich asked to move the Phase 3 plan forward. Steve Kemp mentioned that the parish should become a part of Choice Dollars with Thrivent. Discussion was held on fund raising options and ways to engage the parish to keep the project moving forward.

Next meeting is Tuesday December 10th at 6:30 pm. Meeting ended with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm