

ST. PAUL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 2024

6:00PM in Bona Room

**"Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a growing Catholic Community of Disciples, who
Know, Love, Serve and Share, the Good News of Jesus."**

President Debbie Verhagen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Debbie Verhagen led the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Jim Milhaupt made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2024, meeting. Judy Hurlburt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ATTENDANCE

Father Bob Stegmann, Debbie Verhagen, Pat Schmidt, Jim Milhaupt (Secretary Trustee), and Michelle Otto.

OPEN FORUM

Father Bob talked about the Parish buying the book, 33 Days to Eucharist Glory, to give out after the Christmas Masses. The Diocese would like Catholics to read this book during Lent. The books are available through Dynamic Catholic. Father Bob said the cost of the book would be about \$3.00 if 125 books were ordered or about \$2.00 if 200 books were ordered. We all agreed that 200 books would be a good number to order, since some parishioners already have the book.

Father Bob said he is reading the book, An Introduction to Prayer by Bishop Robert Barron.

Father Bob stated that he had an invitation for Bishop Ricken's 25th Anniversary Mass and celebration for January 6th, the day that he was ordained Bishop by Pope John Paul II. Father Bob was questioning if the Parish needed to give a gift. The council members discussed the gift idea but no ideas about a gift. No decision was made since Father Bob was thinking that probably no gift needed to be given by the Parish.

Father Bob also had requests from several organizations for donations from the Parish. Leaven, VIDA, and Spiritus were mentioned and discussed. Judy Hurlburt said that Christian Services usually donated to Leaven, and she would check into a donation from Christian Services. VIDA has received donations from our Parish through the Mother's Day Rose Sale, collecting diapers and other items needed, and the Knights of Columbus and other parishioners participated in a video for Carols for a Cause for a contest sponsored by Thrivent in the hopes that VIDA could receive the top prize of \$15,000. Maggie told Father Bob that Spiritus is supported by St. Paul Parish through the Faith Formation Program.

Father Bob said he would be attending the Seminarian Dinner on December 23 since Deacon Nico Stellpflug from our parish will be there.

Father Bob reported that the number of cars that drove through the Live Nativity was down this year. We all agreed that there are many other activities for people to attend.

FAITH FORMATION

Debbie Verhagen reported that the Advent Family Night turnout was low due to the inclement weather. She explained that some of the activities took place in rooms in the Faith Formation area since the basement was not available. Rooms with activities were crowded even with the low turnout.

OFFICE SECRETARY AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

Father Bob is still working on the Music Director position.

MARY'S GIRLS

Pat Schmidt said that Mary's Girls would be praying The Rosary the next day, December 13, at 2 p.m. She explained that there would be no December Meeting because it is so close to Christmas.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Father Bob said that The Knights will pay for electrical upgrades necessary in the Kitchen area for their breakfasts.

UPDATE ON VANDENBERG HALL

The sump pumps will be installed in February. Then the new flooring will be installed.

PROPERTY & FINANCE UPDATE

Cheri Ver Voort is working on bids for an electronic marquee by the street.

OTHER BUSINESS

Father Bob stated that Deacon Nico will be arriving home on December 19 and will give the Homily for Friday, December 20. Deacon Greg will be here for the Masses on December 21 and December 22. Deacon Greg and Deacon Nico will be here for all three Christmas Masses. Debbie asked why the Faith Formation Children didn't participate in the 4 p.m. Christmas Mass anymore. She thought that Mass was for the children. She thought it would be nice if the children could participate in bringing Baby Jesus to the Manger. Father Bob was okay with it but asked Debbie to talk to Maggie about it. Deacon Nico will be doing the Homily for the Holyday Masses for Mary, Mother of God, on December 31st at 6:30PM and January 1 at 8 a.m.

Father Bob explained that two 12-Foot Christmas Trees were purchased from Costco to replace the live trees that were used in the past. Combined Locks Fire Department requested that we don't use live trees anymore. It was talked about that any smaller trees needed might be donated by parishioners for this year only. The Parish will look to purchase some smaller trees after Christmas for future years.

Father Bob mentioned that Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is March 5, 2025.

NEXT MEETING DATE - January 9, 2025, at 6 p.m.

ADJOURN THE MEETING

Father Bob did the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Prepared by Pat Schmidt, Parish Council Secretary