

**Church of St Patrick**  
**Parish Council**  
**MINUTES: December 8, 2022**

**Members Present:** Fr Kuss, Liz Gerlach, Terry Kapsen, Grace Hansen, Roseanne Strand, Mike Weibel, Zach Newman, Allison Schmidt

**Members Present via Zoom:** Bill Schnorbrich, Jim Swanke, John Ratelle

**Members Absent:** Lisa Romain, Tom Beutell, Liesel Gutierrez

**7:00 pm Call to Order, with prayer: Fr Kuss**

**November 10 Meeting's Minutes Approved**

**Updates from Fr Kuss**

- Father Kuss leaves on January 5 for his 3-month sabbatical. He returns on April 2, after Palm Sunday.
- Paul has been working on planning music for Ordinary Time through Easter and following.
- Anastasia has been covering the ordering of flowers, etc.
- We have been working on funeral preparation forms and visiting Elder Care Facilities.
- In the Spring, we will again be doing "Preparing for Heaven."
- We are working on new marriage paperwork.
- Meals after the Sunday evening Mass will take place in February and March. The Women's Club will be in charge in February. Perhaps the Parish Council can do so in March.
- The Gala was very successful. Good funds were raised. It was nice to have less of a presence of Covid.

**Discussion of the Synod Document from Archbishop Hebda**

- The emphasis is on Evangelization. After some difficult years, there is a broad look at how to reset. Pope Francis hopes for a "listening church."
- "The laborers are few. We come face to face with our limitations."
- Fr Kuss is concerned about our aging clergy but is encouraged by a large group of men (12) on the path to being ordained.
- Under the guidance and headship of a Pastor, through a finance committee, parish council, and various other committees, people can do their roles in participating.
  - There is a process where Vicars and Deaneries meet about once a month and discuss parish issues.
  - Circumstances in different parishes widely vary. Achieving the goals of adapting to ideas in the Synod will be a journey. St Patrick's has a decent start on this in some areas.

- Some ideas from Fr Kuss
  - Recruit charismatic people to call parishioners in need to check on them, visit, and offer help, Roseanne has started some of this.
  - Organize outreach for the poor.
  - Get parishioners involved in groups outside of St Patrick's.
  - Things like this are the beginning of Evangelization.
- Liz pointed out several highlights from the Synod document, how our parish has been affected, and how it responds to some of them. Many new avenues of outreach are laid out with a relatively short timeline. Much work must be done to gather financial and human resources to support the Pastoral Letter recommendations.

#### **Catechetical Institute:**

- Fr Kuss has signed St Patrick's up to become the center for the Catechetical Institute. It begins next Fall. It is a two-year process that runs during the school year. Meetings will take place on Monday evenings to pray and study in a course covering the Church's Catechism. Speakers will come in to conduct it. There will be a charge for it. It will be open to area churches and beamed out to satellite churches. He hopes members of the Parish Council will consider attending, as well as other parishioners. He especially hopes to engage younger members.

#### **Women in New Evangelization:**

- St Patrick's will sponsor "Women in the New Evangelization." Their conferences will be held here, and they will offer retreats for the area. It could have up to 200 attendees.

#### **Strategic Planning:**

- Terry K and Jim S spoke about the planning process, which will be pretty expansive. They are encouraged that our parish may be on a solid path to fulfill some of these goals. We need to collaborate with other parishes. Terry mentioned a document he received from Lynn Wangen of the Finance Committee. She got it at a Strategic Planning in Action for Catholic Parishes and Schools workshop. He will share it with the Council at some point.
- Fr Kuss pointed out that these goals will never be "finished." Instead, we need to keep growing and reassessing. He would eventually like to have a deep discussion with the Council on what Evangelization *is*.

**8:00 pm Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain.**