

Church of St Patrick
Parish Council
MINUTES: April 13, 2023

Members Present: Fr Kuss, Liz Gerlach, Terry Kapsen, Roseanne Strand, Zach Neuman, Allison Schmidt, Bill Schnorbrich, Jim Swanke, Grace Hansen

Members Absent: Lisa Romain, Liesel Gutierrez, Mike Weibel

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

March 9 Meeting's Minutes Approved

Updates from Fr Kuss

- He has given much thought to installing big monitors in the church.
 - It could help some people navigate the Mass better.
 - It would be costly, and technology would change rapidly.
 - Focusing on a screen throughout the Mass might not be ideal.
 - He is leaning against using them.
- He also is contemplating the idea of installing a Coffee House in the Parish.
 - The cost of necessary updates in the kitchen is concerning, as well as paying the personnel.
 - Liz suggested we make it more known to Parishioners that they could be involved in this project.
 - Fr Kuss wondered if we could provide coffee and treats for groups without running an actual Coffee Shop.
 - Roseanne suggested operating it maybe once a month or at special gatherings and seeing how much it helps draw in participants.
- He would like to update the furniture in the Celtic Center and make it a more unified, beautiful space. He hopes to get some professional estimates on what this might cost.
- Our Parish building is large and requires a lot of heat, energy, etc. Someone sent him information on Tulip's small wind turbines. He would like to investigate that.
- A lot of our active parishioners are aging. We need to reach out to younger parishioners to get involved in church activities.
- We need to work harder to get parishioners to complete the budget cards. They should get a phone call from a committee if they still need to fill out. We could have copies available after Mass, where people could fill them out and turn them in on the spot.
- The Catechetical Institute will meet here on Monday nights for two years. He hopes members of the Parish Council will consider attending.
- Trees need to be cleaned up in the East parking lot.
- He is wondering if we should consider building a columbarium on our property.
- He thought the survey to be sent out to parishioners did not gather enough information to help us meet ministerial needs.

Updates from Bill

- He has had two interviews with a potential Faith Formation leader. As far as he knows, the candidate is not looking at other churches.
- Tree work will be necessary in the Spring.

Easter Sunday Mass attendance

- Attendance was just short of 1000 people.
- Fr Kuss said in speaking with other priests, attendance is also up in other parishes.

Church Survey

- The survey to be sent to parishioners was edited from the previous draft. However, it's been determined that the anonymous aspect of the responses is not helpful and does not equip us well to initiate service in needed areas.
- Fr Kuss would like to get professional help in the process of improving the survey.
- We also should be diligent in obtaining accurate contact information. Parishioners should be engaged in making changes.
- Several existing sources were named as good places to gather current contact information. A team will start to work on consolidating a list.

Confirmation Updates- Allison

- A retreat will take place on April 16.
- The ceremony will take place on April 22 at the St Paul Cathedral. There are 42 Confirmants.

Council Positions Terms Opening due to 2-year terms ending

- Pastor's Appointee
- 2 At Large
- 2 Trustees

Upcoming Events

- Spring Fling
- Women's Luncheon and Fashion Show
- Work is starting to be done on the Octoberfest. Jim Wangen and Marjean Weis are co-chairing it.
- We've had very successful events over the past months.

8:00 pm Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain.