

Church of St Patrick
Parish Council
MINUTES: December 14, 2023

Members Present: Fr Kuss, Terry Kapsen, Zach Neuman, Ivan Pittaluga, Roseanne Strand, Allison Schmidt, Lisa Romain, Bernadette Daly, Jim Wangen, Mike Weibel, Cappy Moore

Members Present via Zoom: Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke, Grace Hanson

Members Not Present: Liz Gerlach, Daniel Farris

November 9 Meeting's Minutes Approved

Updates from Fr Kuss

- The Diorama needs some finishing and a few repairs but will be ready by December 23rd.
- It has been featured in various news and television outlets.
- Perhaps people in Elder Care could be brought in groups to see it.
- Students from OLG are planned to be bussed over to view it.
- People from other churches have already come to see it.

Updates from Bill Schnobrich

- We have hired a third maintenance person.
- The Gala brought in a net profit of about \$42,000. It was suggested we report this in our weekly bulletin to communicate this year's success.

Parish Survey/ Summary and Discussion- Zach Neuman, Ivan Pittaluga and Bill Schnobrich

- PowerPoint charts were presented to summarize responses from the survey. Some of the takeaways:
 - 91% of the respondents would recommend becoming a member of the St Patrick, a very high ratio.
 - A high percentage of new members are interacting with the church weekly or more often.
 - Many commented on having an earlier Mass time Sunday mornings. Fr Kuss pointed out that having too many services is hard on him, being the only priest.
 - There were many comments about youth involvement and education. Keeping young families engaged should be a priority.
 - Fr Kuss and others wished that the youth would take more active roles in the Mass, like altar servers, choir, and lectors. In the future, this is an area where we can better reach out and develop.
 - Mike W said that in his external research with other parishes, he is seeing similar themes to ours.
 - Zach N was very pleased with how many people responded to the survey - over 300. 69 people said they'd like to participate in small group discussions surrounding the development of our strategic plan.

- Zach N also felt the goals of St Patrick are very much aligned with the goals of the Pastoral Synod letter.

Interviews with the Staff, Finance Council and Trustees- Jim Wangen and Lisa Romain

- Some of the comments on what is going well:
 - There were many good remarks on the priests, the Finance Council, and staff. Things are running smoothly.
 - Happy to see growth with some new, young families.
 - The Parish is doing well, staying within its budget.
 - Again, a keen focus on attracting younger families.
 - Many compliments on the music, and parish events.
- Some of the areas needing focus:
 - Be more assertive in fundraising.
 - Volunteerism is a little chaotic:
 - One idea was to present opportunities and lay out specific details on what is required of a volunteer.
 - We went from too few to too many events.
 - Some events need to be targeted to specific demographics. But it can be a tricky balance to be inclusive as well.
 - Coordinate with the High School to offer gathering opportunities.
 - Have more access to the Chapel for Adoration.

Summary, and relationship to the Post-Synod Pastoral Letter

- Several pages of comments were presented today. We will continue the process of developing a road map for the next 3 years.
- Many parishes in the Diocese are forming small groups to begin work in various areas.
- Our parish is struggling to get people engaged, especially those in the 40–60-year-old group (and younger).
- There is training through the Diocese in conducting small groups. Options are available in person or on-line.
- Access to information on this training is available on the Synod Website. We will soon work on making this website known to parishioners.

8:15 pm Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain