**Church of St Patrick**

**Parish Council**

**MINUTES: May 11, 2023**

**Members Present:** Fr Kuss, Liz Gerlach, Terry Kapsen, Grace Hansen, Roseanne Strand, Lisa Romain, Allison Schmidt, Zach Neuman, Liesel Gutierrez, Mike Weibel, Andy Piazza

Members Present via Zoom: Bill Schnobrich

Members Absent: Jim Swanke

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

**April 13 Meeting’s Minutes Approved**

* Bernadette Daly will be our new Pastoral Appointee
* Andy Piazza will be our new Men’s Group Representative

**Updates from Fr Kuss**

* The leading Faith Formation candidate decided not to take the job.
* Bill S and Father Kuss are continuing to search for candidates.
* He has been looking into updating the furniture for the Celtic Center. Because this is a commercial space, we must follow a detailed process to align with codes and regulations. He has been in contact with two companies so far.
* Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute
  + We will be putting out videos to explain why this is important.
  + It will take place at St Patrick’s on Monday nights and open to other Parishes.
  + It is a two-year program with scholarships.
  + We must start promoting the program to parishioners through our Website and bulletin.
  + We should look into providing daycare for children during the class. Bill is checking into what legal requirements this would entail. It could be a great way to draw in young families.
  + A goal of 100 parishioners attending would be ideal and a way to prepare people in leadership for the next 20 years.
  + The process involves breakout discussion sessions, a very important aspect of the program.
  + Late summer/early Fall can be a hectic time. We should make sure we have a long sign-up time available.

**Updates from Bill**

* We are working on a new 5-year lease with ABC Childcare.
* We got quotes from companies on tree cleanup.
* We have another interview lined up for the Faith Formation leader.

**Parish Contact Information**

* Bill and Zach are working on consolidating databases to get a list of parishioners and contact information for outreach purposes.
* Databases can be broken down into subcategories. Work is being done on updating those categories.
* The upcoming survey will require updated contact information.
* Contacting parishioners will only be done through the Parish.

**Strategic Planning**

* Terry presented two St Patrick’s Planning Framework outlines and a Proposed 3-Year Strategic Planning Process.
* Fr Kuss shared his three areas, made clear during his Sabbatical.
  + The Sacraments and Preaching
  + Teaching
  + Our Outreach
* The Council would like a working draft of our objectives based on the Synod letter sent out. We broke into small groups to discuss ideas. We want to narrow our focus to three topics over the next three years.
* Some of the ideas brought up:
  + Faith ministry as opposed to Faith Formation. This has an element of action in addition to the schooling of the Sacraments.
  + Growing membership.
  + We are encouraging membership involvement.
  + Community outreach beyond the Parish, putting our faith in action.
  + Create community, starting with events and going beyond that.
  + We want to make clear our obligation to give first fruits to the Lord.
  + Reach out more with opportunities to pray together, perhaps make the times more accessible.
  + Work harder to reach out to others in our community.
  + Focus on the younger families and members in our church.
  + Teach apologetics.
  + Encourage the building of community and interaction.

**8:00 pm Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain.**