

**Church of St Patrick
Parish Council
MINUTES: October 12, 2023**

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

Members Present via Zoom: Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke, Grace Hansen, Daniel Farris

Member Not Present: Bernadette Daly, Andy Piazza

September 21 Meeting's Minutes Approved

Updates From Fr Kuss

- He will leave for a vacation and retreat in Italy and Egypt on October 22. He was to spend 12 days in Egypt to visit the sights where the Holy Family stayed. Father will be accessing safety as he considers his vacation.
- The Diorama
 - It's due to be installed on December 3. He could use some help for that.
 - He will also need help from people to welcome visitors and help navigate.
 - He is contacting media, printing, and setting up iPads that would inform visitors of what they are looking at. The plan is to have promotional videos produced.
 - He will invite area churches to see it.
 - He has been working on contacting the distributor of the company Fontanini that makes the used statues.
 - He has spoken with St Patrick's Guild and Leaflet Missile.
 - He will have an Alms Fund set up. The money collected will be used for people who come to the Parish looking for financial help.
 - Father Kuss entirely funded the Diorama.
- New Vestments that he has designed have recently arrived, and Father has funded.

Pledge Drive- Bill

- 86 pledge cards have been returned, with a total pledge of \$243,000, so far.
- An online pledge option was offered this year, with a similar response rate from previous years.

Men's Club Updates from Jim Wangen

- Attendance for the Octoberfest was lower than expected, maybe 150-200 people.
 - Roseanne said the people who did come had a great time.
 - Financially, we should be a little above breaking even.
- A survey had been sent out to 250 members on the Men's Club list and about 32 were returned.
- Church maintenance and bible study were two major areas of interest.
- The Men's Club will be helping with the Gala, the Fish Dinner, and the St Patrick's Day Celebration.

Women's Club Updates from Cappy Moore

- The Women's Club has revised its governing structure. All Parish women are members with no membership dues, as fundraising is not the main focus.
- There is a three-pronged mission.
 - We are providing opportunities for women to connect socially.
 - We are connecting spiritually.

- We are encouraging each other to get beyond themselves.
- Finances are still in the works, and Cappy will report on that later.
- The Little Flower Guild and the St. Bridget Guild remain Guilds meeting separately.
- Women's Club hosted a happy hour at Hilltop Restaurant. The Women's Club's gathering was very successful, with about 40 attendees.
- Women's Club will host a monthly Friday hospitality breakfast.
- On October 1, they sponsored a Breast Cancer Awareness luncheon. There were two fantastic speakers, and we broke even financially.
- Some members met with VEAP to see how we can work together. ABC School would like to join in as well. They will schedule regular collections. Liz suggested maybe the Faith Formation students could be involved.
- A Christmas Boutique is coming up. The St. Bridget Guild sponsors this and will be contacting other groups to participate.

Ministry Fair Table Event

- Fr Kuss hopes next time we can get more people to be available at the tables, and have more printed information to hand out.
- It was suggested we have someone speak about it at the end of the Mass.
- Ongoing, we should educate people on the different opportunities for participation. One of our greatest priorities is engagement and community building with our parishioners.

Strategic Plan- the Council broke into two small groups

- **Internal Feedback:** Discussion included the Parish Survey, Small Group Discussion, Interviews with staff, Finance Council and Trustees, and the Synodal Pastoral Letter
- **External Interviews:** This involves area churches and Catholic churches, community outreach, government census, and charitable organizations.

8:15 pm Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain