

**Church of St Patrick**  
**Parish Council**  
**MINUTES: November 10, 2022**

**Members Present:** Fr Kuss, Liz Gerlach, Terry Kapsen, Allison Schmidt, Roseanne Strand, Mike Weibel, Zach Neuman, Lisa Romain

**Members Present via Zoom:** Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke, Grace Hansen, John Ratelle

**Members Absent:** Liesel Gutierrez, Jim Wangen

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

**October 13 Meeting's Minutes Approved**

**Updates from Fr Kuss**

- We still do not have a Youth Minister.
- He has yet to receive feedback from the Stewardship Letter, including interest in the Coffee Shop.
- He spoke with someone at the Archdiocese to begin a 3,5 and 10-year out plan. They will send him some demographics from 10 years ago so he can compare. He will wait until the Pastoral Letter is promulgated. When he returns from the Sabbatical, he will seek their assistance to begin the process, probably next summer or fall.
- Jim Swanke will speak to the congregation on the upcoming weekend.
- The Pastoral Letter will be rolled out on November 20. It will be sent online, and hard copies will be available.
- Leaders from the Prison Ministry will be present in the Celtic Center on November 20.
- Our membership continues to grow.
- The Confirmation team is doing very well. The students seem happy. He is disappointed in the lack of parents attending. He will send out a letter touching on this. He is also disappointed in the absence of students attending Mass.
- We have volunteers set for the Synod Evangelization Team (SET)
  - Deacon Schnell
  - Cinthia Biros
  - Bernadette Daley
  - Aaron and Becky Hurley
  - Ariel Dorsey
  - Bill and Claudette Lucas
- He presented legal details about serving alcohol at church functions. If the Church hosts an event where alcohol is served, we need to bring in a licensed caterer or obtain a temporary license. It saves on money and liability.

**Liturgical Committee- Roseanne**

- Engaging volunteers has been prioritized with the upcoming holidays and Fr Kuss's absence during his Sabbatical. For two weekends after the Masses, a sign-up station has been set up. It proved to be very successful. We should be well covered.

### **Homebound Parishioners**

We have about 50 parishioners residing in Senior Homes, some outside our Parish. Fr Kuss has been engaged with them all. Last year they received poinsettias from the Parish. Terry and Fr Kuss will take charge of doing that again this year. It was suggested we do this for parishioners who are homebound in their private homes. Fr Kuss said it would be too hard to organize. Zach suggested having Confirmation candidates deliver the flowers, but since they cannot drive, it's not an ideal task for them. It could be a possible project for Compass-aged students.

### **Several documents were presented by Liz, Fr Kuss and Terry**

- St Patrick's Planning Framework
- St Patrick's Catholic Church- Draft 12/17/22 (focusing on the Spiritual, Intellectual, Human and Pastoral Pillars.)
- Governance layout
  - Fr Kuss requested that a short description of how parishioners could use the Parish Council be put in the bulletin. He also asked Jim to write one explaining the role of the Finance Committee.
- Proposed St. Patrick's 3-Year Strategic Planning Process
  - In relation to this, Fr Kuss believes the forthcoming Pastoral letter will be relevant. He asked the Parish Council members to read the letter and consider the following:
    - What is it saying?
    - What does it mean for St. Patrick's?
    - What would we need to do to follow the direction of the Archbishop?
    - What are the costs involved?
  - He encouraged members to reach out and discuss topics with fellow parishioners.
  - The members of the SET team will be important in this as well.
  - Fr Kuss also believes Faith Formation will be an important topic in the letter. St Patrick's has made good strides in revising our program.

Liz and Fr Kuss asked that council members reflect on the following for our Parish:

How do we invite the community into our Church and to events that we sponsor? We need to look at weddings, baptisms, trends in new membership, attendance at Mass and activities, ages of parishioners, and neighborhood changes. How do we increase the involvement of members?

It was agreed that we should start buying smaller donuts to serve after the Masses to reduce the expense.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Pizza and Bingo, Nov 12 and Jan 28
- Lenton Fish Fry
- Winter Gala, December 3
- St Patrick's Day Celebration- Ann Leid will take charge.

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Pasta Dinner- Allison says the Confirmation students would like to help with that.
- Allison would also like to put on a Confirmation Breakfast, probably on January 29.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on December 8 after the 6:00 Mass.

**8:00 pm Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain.