

ST. JOSEPH STRINGTOWN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: December 2016

Members Present: Fr. Mark Stec, Beth Kocher, Pat Elie, Elmer Ochs, Mary Zwilling and Laura Sterchi. Also present was Janice Zwilling

Meeting began with reading of the pastoral council mission statement. Minutes were approved from previous meeting.

SERVICE REPORT: The overall year of the 175th Parish Anniversary went well. Committee did a great job planning the year's events.

The Community Club has given up the responsibility of hosting funeral dinners. With this being said, Janice Zwilling has volunteered to be the chairperson of the Funeral Dinner Committee. Other committee members are Cheryl Ginder and Thelma Muhs. Janice presented new guidelines for the funeral dinner events. Council reviewed them and it was noted that one only one change was needed. This being that, if the parish hall is already rented for a parish event, then the funeral dinner cannot be held. The Service Committee member of Parish Council will be in charge of keeping paper products in stock for these events.

New Picnic Committee Members are Doug and Shelly Seaman and Kristie Ginder.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Elmer stated that he has still not heard anything on the new parish sign. If nothing is heard soon, then he will begin looking for another business to make the sign.

Elmer also noted that the furnace rooms in parish center have been cleaned out. New lights have been put in the bathrooms. Door handle has been changed to storage room, but still uses the same key. Gutters have been cleaned out. New furnace has been installed in the church.

It was mentioned that the parish needs to hold a clean-up day. This may be set for a Saturday in March, but no date has been set at this time.

LITURGY REPORT: As of the first week of the new Tri-Parish Mass schedule, attendance seems to be looking good. Attendance will be evaluated at the end of February and discussed at the next Tri-Parish Council meeting. Change to Mass schedule will be determined at that meeting, if necessary. Until then, parish council members will take turns doing a head count for the Masses.

Sacristans are currently looking for new "Reserve" signs.

At this time, with St. Joseph Stringtown having such an early Sunday Mass, Fr. Mark has decided he will come back later in the day for Baptisms, if the family wishes.

There is now a revised Rite of Matrimony. This has gone into effect as of December 30, 2016. This revision entails several changes to weddings. Fr. Mark will provide inserts about the new revisions in the next few bulletins.

A Mass and reception will be held for Sr. Janice Schneider's 25th Anniversary of Religious Life on June 4th. No time is determined at this time.

Ethan Steber and Kendra Kocher need to be added to the Lector list.

EDUCATION REPORT: Hank Ginder was not in attendance but a written report was given on Education details.

St. Joseph School Board met on November 21st. Booster Club is preparing for Diocesan Basketball Tournament December 9th-11th, which is hosted by St. Joe this year. PTO's next event is Secret Santa shopping for the children. The Appeals Policy was reviewed at the last board meeting. Beginning in January, the board will meet every other month.

Attorney General Office will be presenting a Social Media Workshop on January 25, therefore PSR will be canceled for that night. Chow Downs continue throughout the PSR year, the next one will be January 11, 2107. PSR had a scavenger hunt with crafts during the Advent season. The theme was "Seeking our Savior." The Confirmation Retreat will be January 16, 2017.

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues through May 21st. However, there will be no class on the Sundays of Palm Sunday, Easter and First Communion.

Fr. Mark commented on the NECYM Conference that he attended with the other CYM Leaders from the Tri-Parish. A raffle will be held to proceed the June Mission Trip-Cheryl and Madison Zuber and Clarissa Sager will be attending. CYM will be having a fundraiser breakfast the weekend after Valentines. Members of the CYM took down Christmas decorations in Church this past Sunday.

RENEWAL AND RESTRUCTURING: Layout of bulletin is still being designed for the three parishes. This will be a more "all-in-one" bulletin for the Tri-Parish Partnership. Next Tri-Parish Partnership Council meeting will be February 27th at 7:00 p.m. in Olney.

PASTOR'S REPORT: No other information was discussed at this time.

Next Parish Council meeting is set for March 14 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting closed with a prayer.