

St. Augustin Parish Council Meeting

January 8, 2019

St. Augustin Church Conference Room

Call to Order: Sherill Whisenand called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Father Pisut opened with prayer.

Present: Father Christopher Pisut, Sherill Whisenand, John Knight, John Gilbert, Marianne Dowd, Nick Bigelow, Karen Pierick

Absent: Pat Smith, Paul Martin, Colin Riemersma

Approval of November minutes: Carried (John G. moved, Karen 2nd)

New Items: The practice of non-communicants receiving a blessing is intended to make the entire congregation feel welcome and included. However, it is inconsistent among parishes/dioceses and confusing if administered by a lay EM. Father will speak further with Rhonda Heim, but will likely approve laying a hand on the recipient's head as a middle ground. PC members also asked about lectors and others bowing when crossing in front of the altar; Father replied that it's a good rule of thumb to bow each time, but it isn't a pivotal issue.

Older Items: New Parishioner Reception was a well-reviewed event. It was not heavily attended, due in part to issues with bulletin communications and deadlines in the month of December. We intend to host such events 2-3 times each year, and will re-invite the 2018 families at the next one. Social events later this winter will require creative scheduling, as Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day are within 2 weeks of each other.

Board of Education: Will meet 1/10 (not normal in January, but finances require extended discussion).

Finance Council: Next meeting is later in January.

Buildings & Grounds: New railings look impressive. Christmas decorations coming down next week. The parish hires a service for snow/ice removal, but Kirk and the ushers do some tasks as needed. Scaffolding and painting in the apse are currently taking place, and hall tiles are being replaced. The new statues are now painted and awaiting shipment.

Parish Life: A farewell reception is being arranged for Father Zach Kautzky later this month; he will take a temporary assignment in February, then enter Air Force chaplaincy after that. The Advent wreath was lit in front of the congregation only on the first Sunday, then pre-lit the next three Sundays. The choir will not relocate to the loft until the parish has the right keyboard device (being researched by Jonathan Fortino). The Knights are presenting a check to Easter Seals for \$8,100 on 1/15, thanks to fundraising events like Smoker Poker.

Other: The parish is now in the first phase of the capital campaign, which is a feasibility study; staff will meet with approximately 75 households to determine appropriate goals. A new accountant (Jill Frederick) has been hired.

Adjournment: 7:11 pm (John G. moved, John K. 2nd). Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Bigelow