

St. Mark's Parish Council

September 14, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Father Joe, Father Dan, Kara Buchanan, Jeff Culbert, Rick Gebbia, Melissa Heike, Patti Lynch, Teri McGrath, and Ed Michonski

St. Mark's Picnic:

- The picnic will be this Sunday, September 20, 2015.
- There will be 148 people, including the OLM parish.
- We are cutting back on games this year because of the magician. We have enough helpers for the games.
- The raffle is going better this year. It is our major fundraiser.
- There is a chance for thunderstorms the day of the picnic. There are plans in place in case they do occur.

Review of Transition of OLM Back Home:

- Father Joe does not know when this will happen.
- There is an issue with the OLM altar platform.
- Father Joe is waiting for approvals to move things back into the church.
- They are still shooting for September 27th.
- There is a big wedding scheduled at OLM for October 9th.
- Once OLM moves back in, they will invite the St. Mark's parish to come see the church on a Sunday.
- Both Melissa and Teri have received good feedback from OLM families about their experience at St. Mark's.

Epiphany Pot Luck Lunch:

- Ed thinks this lunch is minimal work for a good event. The rest of the council agreed.
- We had 130 people attend last year.
- We need more main dishes from families, and we have to try to avoid so many duplicates.
- It will be held on January 3, 2016.
- We have to make sure we have the key to the church for setup the night before the lunch.
- We should start publicizing in the bulletin and Father Joe's group email at the end of November.
- We should start making announcements and have the sign-up sheet available in early December.
- Father Joe said that we have quite a few new families to invite.

- We lose as many families as we gain, due to the economy and job transfers.
- This event is also a good opportunity for socializing for all the parish families.

Financial Status of St. Mark's Parish/Bishop's Appeal:

- At the end of the last quarter, we were about \$5,000 ahead. This is due to donations, and OLM being at St. Mark's.
- St. Mark's goal for the Bishop's Appeal is \$10,000.
- There will be a representative that will speak about the appeal on the first weekend of October.
- The mortgage is our only debt. It is between \$700-800,000.
- The Financial Board will make a five year plan for St. Mark's.

Outreach in Community:

- We need to try to reach families that are not attending church.
- Melissa said that the housing market in town is getting better, and it should bring in more new families.
- We need a new survey to poll the parish community to determine how engaged they are in church.
- Father Dan said that sometimes people choose not to be engaged or involved.
- Ed said that we have to find out why they are not engaged.
- Melissa said that when we construct a survey, we should make it with yes/no answers so we are not inundated with information.
- Kara said we should also have it in the bulletin. And we should make sure that people are receiving Father Joe's emails.

Chairs:

- The Knights of Columbus will be giving us some chairs.
- Jim Jones is making this possible.
- Father Joe is not sure of the number yet, but he is hoping for 100.
- Father Dan suggested families of St. Mark's should buy chairs to match that number. They are only \$35 per chair.

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 12th, at 7:30 pm.

Rick Gebbia will bring the opening prayer.