

**Church of the Holy Spirit**  
Parish Council 4/24/18 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Deacon Ray Garbach, Shari Magagnoli, Bob Quinn, Joe Sakmyster, Brian Weaver, Mike Schifano, Marc Magagnoli, Fr. Justin Miller, Michael Lynch, Patrick Vogt, Margaret Marchand, Rebecca Olek, Pat Schichler, Gabe Pellegrino and Bill Keenan

Excused: Tony Ferrara

\* \* \* \*

- Meeting began with prayer in the church led by Fr. Jim.

Chair's Report (Bill Keenan)

- Bill welcomed Margaret Marchand to the Council.
- Bill gave an update on the work of the Executive Team
  - continuing to work on the Five Pillars that Fr. Jim proposed
  - beginning with some easier tasks, such as the following:
    - developing an ice and snow removal plan;
    - getting new "Welcome!" name tags made for greeters and ushers;
    - inviting families (not just individuals) to be greeters;
    - developing a plan for establishing some sort of information/welcome desk for access by parishioners before and after weekend Masses;
    - and creating and distributing a survey of parishioners to get feedback on the book we handed out at Christmas.
  - forming a Stewardship Team, which met for the first time yesterday;
  - putting out feelers for developing a Young Adult or Young Catholic Professionals group
  - following up on Pat's idea of making the parish picnic a community picnic;
  - developing a youth choir;
  - developing an ambassador ministry wherein one person at each weekend Mass takes it upon him/herself to make new people feel welcome and troubleshoot any issues (e.g. seating, parking, shortage of altar servers, etc.)

Pastor's Remarks

- Fr. Jim reported brought the Council up to speed on the following topics:
  - Keep our 10 First Communicants and 10 Confirmants in our prayers.

- May 20 will be our Parish Feast Day; Bishop Matano will be the celebrant at the 11 am Mass, and a potluck reception will follow (coordinated by the Knights).
- Fr. Jim's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination will be June 1, 2018. We will have a reception after the June 9 and 10 weekend Masses to celebrate his priesthood and thank God for his years of service.
- Fr. Miller has been reassigned to two parishes in Auburn. His last weekend at Holy Spirit will be June 16 and 17 with receptions in the church hall following each Mass.
- Deacon Jeff Chichester will be ordained a priest on June 2 at 10 am at Sacred Heart Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.
- The Stewardship Leadership Team has been formed to help all parishioners develop an increased sense of ourselves as stewards of all that God has given us and our commission to give back our blessings to Him. The Team will meet six times/year; all are welcome to attend the meetings.

### Old Business

- Joe gave a very thorough report regarding his research on the unused acreage surrounding our church buildings and parking lot as well as his conversations with local developers pertaining to the lot: If we were to sell the property for a housing development, it could be divided into three large lots, or possibly 10 -12 houses could be built on it instead. If the latter, we could possibly get \$10,000 - \$12,000 per unit, though we would have to consider the cost of sewers since we're currently on septic. Fr. Jim noted that we would have to decide a lower limit or what we would accept for the property, and he said it would be good to get input from as many builders as possible. We will continue to explore this option or the option of developing the property ourselves for some other purpose, such as building a rosary garden.

### New Business

- Proposed Capital Campaign: Fr. Jim asked the Council for their input regarding the idea proposed a few years ago for conducting a capital campaign in order to bring our church sanctuary in line with liturgical guidelines, repair or replace the roof over the church hall, renovate the church hall, update the parish's sign out by the road, and update our heating system. Gabe noted that accessibility up to the altar and down into the parish hall needs to be part of any renovation plans. The Council agreed that it would be worthwhile for Fr. Jim to ask LaBella Associates for a revised estimate and plan, developed with input from their liturgical architect.

### Open Forum

- Fr. Miller noted that one downside of our quiet, new air conditioning system is that it's sometimes too quiet in the church during confessions, especially when there aren't any fans blowing. It was suggested that we purchase a white noise machine that could be placed outside the confessionals, similar to those used at other churches.

- Gabe noted there was a nice showing of the choir at the recent Confirmation. He also noted that Tony will be receiving a Diocesan Young Musicians Award this coming Sunday, an annual award given to young pastoral musicians.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2018**