

**Church of the Holy Spirit**  
Parish Council 11/21/17 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Michael Lynch, Brian Weaver, Marc Magagnoli, Pat Schichler, Gabe Pellegrino, Shari Magagnoli, and Bill Keenan

Excused: Joe Sakmyster, Bob Quinn, Fr. Justin Miller, Rebecca Olek, Deacon Ray Garbach and Mike Schifano

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- Meeting began with prayer led by Fr. Jim in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Chair's Report (Bill Keenan)

- Bill noted that a new member of the Parish Council most likely will be joining us at the next meeting.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Jim)

- Fr. Jim gave a CMA update: 135 donors donated \$62,205, which is 79% of our goal of \$79,638. We are ahead of where we were last year at this time. Fr. Jim hopes we can reach our goal by Christmas.

- Bishop Matano will celebrate Mass with us on Pentecost, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the 11 am Mass.

- Fr. Jim explained briefly the work to date of the Executive Team and the four pillars (aka benchmarks) that they determined will help us become more of a "Spirit-filled parish of mercy."

- 1) Building a more welcoming, Christ-centered community for everyone;
- 2) Becoming a more family-friendly parish;
- 3) Empowering and strengthening the parish leadership teams – currently worship, faith formation, stewardship and operations;
- 4) Driving a broader participation of parishioners in liturgical ministries of Sunday Eucharists.

Worship Team Report (Michael Lynch)

- The team reviewed the Monday evening teaching Masses and determined that they were very well received and appreciated. Parishioners were grateful to have an opportunity to attend Mass on a weeknight. Teachings were excellent. The

team recommends that we continue with these Masses if feasible, possibly beginning again in Lent on a different night of the week.

- Recent recruitment efforts have resulted in seven new people serving in liturgical roles such as altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and lectors.
- The Worship Team will engage in enrichment activities to help them learn more about liturgical ministries and how they contribute to parish life.
- Sacristans will decorate the gathering area for Advent on November 20<sup>th</sup> after Mass. Decorating the church for the Christmas season will take place after the 8:30 am Mass on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The parish will offer an evening of reconciliation on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Reflection music will be provided while confessions are being heard.
- Our parish mission on the theme of “Mercy and Repentance” will be given by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal on March 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.
- We may have to reschedule the Saturday morning Mass if priests’ health becomes a concern.

#### Role of the Executive Team (Fr. Jim)

- Fr. Jim explained his reasoning behind his decision to form an Executive Team at the parish. The main reason is to improve communication, programming and messaging within the parish so that things don’t fall through the cracks, as sometimes they do. He wants the team to look at current and future programs as they address these issues. He said that the “stake in the ground” that we need to establish as a parish is to respond to Pope Francis’ call to become a Spirit-filled parish of mercy, and he explained how the four pillars (discussed previously) can help us attain this goal. The team currently consists of himself, Deacon Ray, Kathy Brill, Rebecca Olek, Bill Keenan and Michel Cassagnol. David Powe from an organization called Magnificent Diocese is using his leadership skills to help guide the team in setting benchmarks. Pat suggested that Fr. Jim consider expanding the membership of the Executive Team to include other parish leaders.

#### Connecting the Dots Between the Parish Council’s September Visioning Session Results and the Executive Teams Four Parish Pillars/Benchmarks (Group Brainstorming Activity):

**Pillar #1: Building a more welcoming, Christ-centered community for everyone**  
**Corresponding Visioning Descriptors:**

- Identity in our parish name (Holy Spirit) and focus on gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Giving via our charisms
- 5-year plan
- Being welcoming (start a Catholic Welcome Wagon for new neighbors)
- Catholic, Traditional and Progressive
- Communicative – all on the same page
- Reverence
- Christ centered
- Merciful
- Dynamic: out-reaching, evangelizing
- Joyful
- Action oriented
- Social events
- Pastoral – care for parishioners
- Divine Mercy & Fatima
- Outreach to elderly
- Bringing generations together
- Accommodating
- Social outreach
- Being a blessing for various groups

**Pillar #2: Becoming a more family-friendly parish**

**Corresponding Visioning Descriptors:**

- Identity in our parish name (Holy Spirit) and focus on gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Giving via our charisms
- 5-year plan
- Family centered
- Communicative – all on the same page
- Lifelong learning
- Reverence
- Merciful
- Action oriented
- Social events
- Divine Mercy & Fatima
- Bringing generations together

**Pillar #3:** Empowering and strengthening the parish leadership teams – currently worship, faith formation, stewardship and operations

**Corresponding Visioning Descriptors:**

- Identity in our parish name (Holy Spirit) and focus on gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Giving via our charisms
- 5-year plan
- Resourceful – maintaining a list of volunteers & services that can help parishioners
- Prayer/adoration
- Communicative – all on the same page (emphasis on this pillar)
- Lifelong learning
- Reverence
- Merciful
- Action oriented (emphasis on this pillar)
- Divine Mercy & Fatima
- Reconciliation (emphasis on the Sacrament)
- Stewards

**Pillar #4:** Driving a broader participation of parishioners in liturgical ministries of Sunday Eucharists

**Corresponding Visioning Descriptors:**

- Identity in our parish name (Holy Spirit) and focus on gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Giving via our charisms
- 5-year plan
- Prayer/adoration
- Communicative – all on the same page
- Reverence
- Merciful
- Action oriented
- Divine Mercy & Fatima

- Once the Council completed this exercise, they discussed ways of expressing the four pillars through the lens of the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Post meeting note: Michael Lynch suggested that we could draw a correlation between the fruits of the Spirit and Pillars 1 & 2, and draw a correlation between the gifts of the Spirit and Pillars 3 & 4. The Executive Team will reflect on this.

- When we develop a five-year plan, we need to determine if it meets the criteria of the pillars we established. Also, as a parish we need to embrace a spirituality of stewardship.

- The Council then conducted a calendar exercise to determine if there are any potential event conflicts in the coming two months and to make sure we have plans for promoting events far in advance. Marc noted that the parish calendar now includes scheduling for the gathering area. He also noted that a parish calendar is available on the Holy Spirit website.

***The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018***