

**Church of the Holy Spirit**  
Parish Council 2/15/17 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Fr. Jason Miller, Dcn. Ray Garbach, Mike Schifano, Bob Quinn, Brian Weaver, Marc Magagnoli, Pat Schichler, Shari Magagnoli, Gabe Pellegrino, Joe Sakmyster, Brian Weaver and Bill Keenan

Excused: Eric Willing, Patrick Vogt, Cathy Brill, Tony Ferrara, Michael Lynch and Lisa Manella

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Meeting began with Benediction and a Gospel reflection by Fr. Jim in the church.

Pastor's Remarks

Fr. Jim noted some highlights for the upcoming Lenten Season that we as a parish will want to commit ourselves to practicing. This is not a season of "business as usual" but rather one wherein we refrain from unnecessary meetings and activities but instead practice fasting, self-denial and a renewed commitment to prayer and charitable works.

- March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday, a time to embrace a season of penitence
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> and other Fridays in Lent: Soup Suppers followed by Stations of the Cross beginning at Holy Spirit and then alternating with St. Joe's
- March 19 – 21: Parish mission on "The New Evangelization"
- March 28: Diocesan Day of Penance at all parishes

Church Drop-Down Screen Messages During Lent

Marc noted that we will need one person per weekend Mass to start the slide show. Michael will make additional changes to the slides based on input from Deacon Ray and others. Slides will run for six minutes prior to Mass, and will stop two minutes before the start of Mass. Michael will update the slides weekly.

Joe's wife Ann suggested that we consider playing prayerful, sacred music prior to weekend Masses. The Council liked this suggestion and decided to try implementing this after Lent. Fr. Miller suggested that we consider using live background music (i.e. Gabe) in place of recorded music at times.

Marc noted that he is working on getting our church bell system to work; hopefully we can get it to be operational on weekends once again.

#### Faith Formation Director Position Update

Fr. Jim noted that we have had some individuals express an interest in this part time position. He stressed the importance of this position for the wellbeing of our parish, and noted that lower collection amounts directly impact our ability to add/maintain staff. He added that staff will be talking tomorrow with a representative from Our Sunday Visitor about the advisability of implementing a program at Holy Spirit to encourage a greater spirit of generosity. Collections over the past several months are down 5% compared to last year.

#### RCIA

Deacon Ray noted that we currently have three people interested in RCIA. Our program and team have not been very robust recently due to the low numbers of interested people. Fr. Jim noted that having a team in place can help attract candidates and that we should consider developing a team. He said that St. Joe's has a "well oiled" RCIA program and that we might be able to glean some tips from them. John Fraysier and Roger Miller have expressed an interest in being on a Holy Spirit RCIA team. Fr. Miller suggested that we announce at all Easter Masses that we now have an RCIA team and that interested people, including lapsed Catholics (Pat's suggestion), should contact Deacon Ray if they'd like to learn more. Fr. Jim recommended that Deacon Ray and Fr. Miller together develop a plan for forming an RCIA team at Holy Spirit.

#### St. Joseph's Table

Pat noted that the Knights of Columbus and others have stepped forward to help with this year's event. The Knights do not want to take over the St. Joseph's Table at this point since they fear that others might not volunteer or contribute if they think that the Knights are taking care of everything. Pat is currently acting as the delegator of assignments for those interested in helping. She's hoping that this year we might be able to be more inclusive of people on gluten-free diets as well as those on low-sugar diets. Michael may want to consider adding a slide about the St. Joseph's Table to the drop-down screen slide show. Also, we will be sure to invite our mission priest to the St. Joseph's table.

### Habitat and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality

Mike noted that a Habitat for Humanity work day is scheduled for two Saturdays from now. He also noted that we had plenty of parishioners who volunteered at the recent Sunday meal preparation/serving day at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. We may consider other options in the future in order to be able to include all who want to help. In an email message prior to the meeting, Cathy also noted we may wish to discuss at an upcoming Council meeting the idea of serving a dinner on a monthly basis at Holy Spirit to anyone in need, similar to how St. Rita's program

### 2017 Retreats in Canandaigua

Joe will be coordinating efforts again this year to encourage and facilitate men and women from the parish to attend scheduled retreats for our parish at Notre Dame Retreat House. The women's retreat will be held on the weekend of September 15 and the men's retreat will be on the following weekend. The theme of this year's retreats will be "God is Talking; Are You Listening?," and the retreats will be given by Fr. Dennis Billy, C. Ss. R, a scholar who has written 34 books, has taught in Rome and has an impressive background. Joe will make announcements before all Masses on various weekends later in the year in order to encourage parishioners to consider making a retreat.

### Other Items for Consideration

Fr. Miller brought a few additional items to our attention:

- Larry Mancini (choir member) is interested in coordinating a bowling outing for the parish.
- Fr. Miller wants to do more at Holy Spirit during his one assigned day at the parish instead of just spending time in the rectory working on his homily. In the future he will make himself more available on Thursdays by developing his homilies on a different day and by scheduling his home/hospital visits on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays.
- Serious consideration is being given to combining the Holy Spirit high school youth group with St. Joe's next school year. Both groups seem interested in trying this.
- We should consider getting photos taken of parish council members and displaying them so that parishioners will know who is on the council. Marc noted that we still have the parish council display board in the basement.

- There has been interest in starting a men's group (prayer, discussion, reflection on Scripture) at Holy Spirit

K of C Ladies Auxiliary

Pat noted that Holy Spirit has been approved to be the home of a new Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

Fr. Jim brought the meeting to a close by leading members in prayer.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:15 pm.**