

Minutes from Parish Council Meeting on October 9th, 2018

Parish Life Update:

- Oct. 13 – Knights of Columbus Bingo at **7pm**
- Oct. 27 – Blue and Gray Voices (St. James Choir) at **5pm Mass**
- Nov. 3 – Community Electronics Recycling Event – **Saturday from 9am – 1pm in St. John’s parking lot** - flyers given to each of us by Mary to hang somewhere in the community.
- Nov. 4 – Married Couples Event – **Sunday at 7pm**
- Nov. 11 – Mass for Veterans – **Sunday at 11:30am Mass** – invitations are being sent to the community. There will be greeters at the doors and pins given to each Veteran. This is for veterans of all faiths in our community.
- **Daily Mass has changed from 7:30am to 8am Wednesday to Friday** with a Communion Service on Tuesday mornings now with Deacon Bowie instead of Mass. There are about the same number of people attending the morning Mass since the time change.

Recaps of Parish Leadership Meeting (9/8/2018) and Welcome Sunday (9/30/2018):

- No objections or comments about Ministry Sunday format.
- A lot of youths signed up on Welcome Sunday for Youth Choir for example. Many families attended. Caroline, our Youth Group minister, said there are around 15 attending meetings regularly and many are boys. She is going to reach out to other faiths through the Interfaith Council of Southern Delaware County with the goal of finding shared activities and connections.

Block Census Update:

- The collection thus far is about \$5,000 less than last year at this time, but still better than 2 years ago. Last year, there was a 20% increase over the prior year.

Mass Greeters Suggestion:

- Joan O’Brien from the Hospitality committee called Marianne before our meeting and suggested contacting leaders of all of the ministries to see if they wanted to participate. Fr. Ed said the leaders would probably be in favor of greeters but that won’t necessarily get anyone to sign up. There would have to be someone/group to own it and have specific duties laid out. His experience is that it doesn’t work out well. Our ushers currently do some greeting at the front doors of the Church.
- Some ideas were ushers at the parking lot doors or possibly the Youth Group taking it on.
- Neil said St. Anastasia and St. Thomas of Villanova have greeters and Fr. Ed asked him to check with them about how they organize it. Decision was made to table this suggestion for now.

Fr. Ed's Updates:

- Parish response to the Clergy Sex Abuse Scandal. Fr. Ed feels the hierarchy of the Church has to crumble in order to prevent this happening in the future. He asked for each of us to comment on our feelings/response to the scandal. There was a lot of anger, disgust and tragic feelings from the group. Some felt the hierarchy needed to be shaken up due to their power and arrogance.
- Fr. Ed said he spoke to someone who said they felt the difference between the 2005 Grand Jury report and this one was the number of children abused (1,000+). He also said he was angry with the first letter from Archbishop Chaput sent to the priests in the Archdiocese. There was no attempt to meet with the priests to discuss the scandal as other bishops around the country have done. The second letter he just recently received from the Archbishop asked parish pastors to urge their parishioners to fight the retroactive 2-year window for civil litigation that the state legislature is trying to pass. Fr. Ed would not read the letter to our parish.
- The Parish Life Center Committee has reduced the cost of the project significantly. The committee is working on several aspects of the project and discussing the optimal time frame for the capital campaign. The committee has authorized a second feasibility study given the extensive changes in the project and in the fundraising climate.

Our next meeting is 7 pm Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018. Please email Fr. Ed or Mary with any new business for the November meeting.

Submitted by Pat Lockwood