

## ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. James Parish Council Meeting October 29, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Fr. LeRoy Schik, Pastor, Denny Floersch, Trustee, Paul Hess, Chairman, Adam Meek, Vice Chairman, Maureen Vogel, Secretary, Amanda Stramer, Riley Christensen, Gina Hutchison, Diane Gerst, Liturgy, Kattie Meek, Faith Formation, and Mary Jane Hay, CCW. Absent were Dennis Fagerstrom, Trustee, and Becky Roberts, Giving Hope and Maintenance.

Fr. LeRoy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Reading of the May and August Minutes. May Minutes had been approved. There were no additions or corrections to the August Minutes. Denny made a motion to approve and Riley seconded. MC

**Father LeRoy's "Mail Bag":** ACC is moving forward and will probably be in place by July 1, 2021. Father will have no public All Souls' Mass as attendance would not be very good so he will have a private Mass to honor the poor souls who have passed away this past year. He will announce this in all the parishes.

**Old Business:** Denny said we are e-mailing the funeral notices. Some e-mails had to be corrected to receive the communications. Anyone is to let Pat Chermak know additions or changes to e-mails.

**In regard to the water issues in the basement,** John Klinnert reported to Paul and Riley that leaf gutters and a drain pipe will be installed. For now Riley will get help to clean the gutters. Adam took up the carpet in the pre-school basement classroom. It previously had water halfway across the room but was dry now and moldy. The room can be used but flooring will not be replaced until we know the water issues are resolved.

### **Committee reports:**

**Finance:** Collections are still up.....no complaints there.

**CCW:** Vice President, Amanda, reported that Deacon Mick gave a talk about his journey toward joining the church, his experience in the Marines, interactions in life and his personal connection and deep love for Mary. CCW members talked about the things that are going on looking for fresh ideas on how to help parishioners.

**Maintenance:** Riley cannot commit to being the head of Maintenance now due to outside family commitments and job change; however, he will help until we find someone permanent. We need to continue the search.

**Giving Hope:** Denny reported for Becky that there is \$4,732 in checking and gift cards. They will take it up to \$6,000 and stop adding to it until they start using some of it so they want to encourage others to let them know if someone in the parish needs help. Gift cards are given out, not cash. In the past, for instance, they have been known to pay a utility bill directly or give gift cards for gas to go to chemo treatment appointments. The question came up as to the location of the Giving Hope request forms. They are in the entryway of church. There is no special qualification criteria....only a need in a family.

**Liturgy:** The committee will meet November 19, 2020. to discuss Advent and Christmas. November is the month to remember our beloved dead. The Book of Remembrance is in the front entry. People are invited to write names in the book for people to be prayed for in a general way. At Saturday's Mass pictures of the past year's deceased parishioners will be placed on a table in front of the altar. A candle will be given to the deceased person's family as a special remembrance.

**Faith Formation:** Kattie started the beginning of October with the Saturday Mass. We have a few not participating which is understandable. We have changed the program this year to the Ham Lake Program which follows the church liturgy (whatever the readings are for the week). It is designed to be an at-home program with three weeks at home and one week at church. A lot of the parishes have taken this program on and all have liked it. It is more on the kid's level. Teachers really like it. It is designed to have K-3 the same and grades K, 1 and 3 are in the same room and 2, with their preparation for the sacraments, are in another room. Grades 4-6 are in the same room. There are fewer teachers needed. Confirmation will be November 15 at 2:00 pm in Battle Lake. The confirmants had their interviews with Father. There are 20 young people altogether plus one from another parish affected by Covid.

**New Business:** *Non Festival, Festival:* We don't know where we will be on C-19 for the summer of 2021 so we have to make plans now for a festival. Our monetary donations are good so we will leave the non-festival as it is for now.

**Pastoral Council Election:** We will not have a pastoral council election. Father asked Paul and Amanda to stay on until July, and they agreed. When the ACC occurs, we will only need two council members from each of the seven parishes.

**Camera For Streaming Mass:** Father said we have a camera system put in and it is working well. Many people use the live-streamed Mass, and we want to continue streaming in all seven parishes. There are two ways of submitting the streaming: Live streaming and viewing later. We may be able to use the security camera, but we are unsure if it will work for viewing the video later. We are looking at having 72" screens at a cost of approximately \$900 apiece. Two would be located in the front (left and right side) of the altar and one (or two) in the gathering space (72" screen may not be necessary there). These would show the Mass parts, the creed, the responsorial psalm, and the music when we get back to having that. Father said we are looking at under \$5,000 for the complete-system package including the computer; but, if some of our present equipment will work, it may not be that high. Tim Welch, a communication expert for the diocese had met with Father LeRoy and Father Peter on the feasibility of using our present equipment in the seven parishes. He suggested another man (an over-the-top tech expert) who wants to help the churches and would come out for free twice. Once to suggest what we would need to make everything work, and then come back a second time to ensure that we have a functioning system. He is the advantage to doing this now. We would have to put in the wiring and hardware including the computer (if present one would not work with the system). We would need WiFi and good network speed. A rotation of four or five people would be needed to run the equipment. We could save \$2,500 by not buying missals as they cannot be used due to C-19. We would have to pay about \$500/year to purchase copyrights on music. Denny said she could check with Jan Kinn on the music copyrights. We may be able to use it but not copy it. The system could pay for itself very quickly. With ACC, we have to look at universality in the system. The Finance Council approved up to \$7,500 for the system. Amanda made a motion and Gina seconded it to get going on this system.

It was mentioned that the location of our computer control system now is a distraction. There is very little movement noticeable, and the person using it should be able to participate in the Mass. It is okay where it is now.

**Bankruptcy/Reorganization:** The Diocese must pay on the misconduct cases \$22.5M to the court system. Most will be covered by the diocese but around \$2M the parishes will come together to pay. The positive thing is, if we go along now with paying the \$15,500 the diocese has asked each parish to pay, what is called a channeling injunction would ensure that after the final court date, we cannot be sued later for what happened at a previous time.

**Action Items:** Our next meeting may be January 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Father did say because of ACC, he may be running the Financial and Pastoral Councils together with meetings four times a year. Eventually he will be running everything together with all three parishes...perhaps in April. Many details have to be worked through as yet.

Father wants to renew prayer petitions for vocations (three or four times a month) and for the youth of the parish, our faith formation (one time a month).

We will have a seven parish bulletin by the last Sunday in November (Advent).

The meeting was adjourned and Father LeRoy led a closing Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Vogel, Secretary