

St James Parish Council Meeting

October 7, 2020

Attendees: Fr Nolker, Deacon Tim, Evan Day, Eric Keller, Nancy Holt, Jim Purtell, Jen Roth, Tom Schornak, Nancy Thomas

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Christ at the Center: Faith Formation: Isaiah 25:6-10

How has the lavishness of God fed us even when we have not expected it?

- After praying to God for help, sold house in a few days and found a condo priced low to fix up.
- COVID provided an opportunity for families to reconnect and grow closer.
- COVID provided an opportunity to realize how blessed we are with all the things we have in our possession.
- Appreciate all that we take for granted that God has blessed us with day in and day out.

Report on Religious Education

- Claire Zink shared the Religious Programs and how they are being handled this year with COVID restrictions.
 - o School masses are being attended by school children on a weekly rotating basis
 - 2nd, 3rd & 4th grade
 - 5th & 6th grade
 - 7th & 8th grade
 - o 5th grade has done a Rosary Service in the past. This year each 5th grader wrote an intention on a square and Claire arranged them in a Rosary pattern in the vestibule for everyone to view.
 - o PSR is being taught at home via the parents. Claire & a few Catechist meet with the PSR attendees and their parents on a monthly basis. The parents have said they are learning things with their kids. We have 10 families / 13 students in PSR this year.
 - o First Communion for 3rd graders who did not get to celebrate their First Communion last year due to COVID are celebrating at 4:30 masses in October
 - 24 students participated on October 3rd
 - 21 students will participate on October 10th
 - 22 students will participate on October 17th
 - It was decided to celebrate First Communion at 4:30 mass because they were supposed to all celebrate at 4:30 mass last year and 4:30 mass has the lowest attendance of our weekend masses and this allowed extended family to attend the celebration.
 - o Confirmation
 - planned for February 8, 2021 at 7 pm
 - 57 students will be making their Confirmation
 - The plan is to only have the student, their sponsor and their parents attend the celebration.
 - Archbishop Schnur will be the celebrant
 - o First Reconciliation
 - 64 – 66 students
 - 3 times slots will be assigned to student & their parents
 - 7:00 pm
 - 7:30 pm
 - 8:00 pm
 - There will be a scripture reflection then the students will celebrate reconciliation then parents if they want to.
 - Students and parents will wait in the Church Hall before their time

Cathedral ornament update

- Nancy Thomas brought the 2 Parish ornaments – 1 to go to the Cathedral and 1 to put on our Christmas Tree. Fr Nolker will take it down to the cathedral next week.
- Karen Wiseman is working with the students of St James to create the ornament from the School. She will have it finished before Thanksgiving. The students are thinking about make a cross ornament with possibly a fisherman, net, shell on it.
- Nancy sent a Thank You and St James prayer card to all the people who created the ornament.
- Nancy also gave everyone in Pastoral Council a St James prayer card – THANK YOU NANCY!

Giving Tree

- Connie Lanter asked if we think St James should do a Giving Tree this year and if we do should we cut back on the # of ornaments due to the reduction in people attending masses to fill the ornaments.
- Pastoral Council input to Father:
 - o Yes continue the Giving Tree
 - o Reduce the # of ornaments on the tree
 - Focus on Christmas Oriented requests
 - Focus on Kid gifts
 - Focus on Organizations that St James still has affiliations with
 - ~650 tags would be a good #. ~450 people are attending weekend mass during COVID.

Pastor's Comments

- **Christmas Mass Schedule**
 - o Should we keep the same Christmas mass schedule as past years – **we recommended keep the same or drop Noon mass**
 - Christmas Eve – 3pm (~1,000 attendees), 5 pm (~900 attendees)
 - Christmas Day – 10 am (~250 attendees) & Noon (~275 attendees)
 - o Should we have pre-registration for Christmas masses – **This doesn't seem to have worked for other parishes.**
 - o Will we have the Live Streaming equipment to be able to Stream in the Church Hall if over capacity in the church? **Deacon Tim thinks equipment may be ready by Christmas. If it is, we could offer Live Streaming during Christmas masses.**
- **COVID Weekend Mass Attendance**
 - o We are averaging 400 people total at weekend masses
 - o Prior to COVID we were averaging 1000 people total at weekend masses
- **New Scout's Building**
 - o They should be framing in the building this week
- **New Organ**
 - o New Organ is installed
 - o Zolton is planning when the organ can be blessed and putting on a concert
- **Our Lady of the Woods Update**
 - o It has been sold. Originally for \$210,000 then 20 days later sold again for \$550,000.
 - o It is not clear what the plan is for the building/land.
- **School Updates**
 - o School Cafeteria is being fitted with Air Conditioning. In process.
 - o COVID cases at school – 3 confirmed cases since the beginning of school.
 - o Faculty is full now. Technology teacher started last week.

Meeting ended with Night Payer at 8:15 pm

Next Meeting – November 4th