

**Saint Matthew's Parish Council**  
**May 28, 2020 Meeting Notes**  
Via Zoom

Present: Jerald Dosch, Jackie Lackner, Becky Montgomery, John Riehle, Ellen Schneider, Joanne Smith, Barb Strom, Karen Thompson, Suzanne Clarke

Guests: Alan Christensen, Janelle Rohr

Facilitator: Jackie     Note Taker: Suzanne

1. Reflection on death of George Floyd (May 25) & Lord's Prayer
  2. Parish Council Membership (full council membership is 9 people)
    - Introduction of potential new members: Alan and Janelle
    - Orientation: current members also introduced; a virtual information meeting was held on May 21 for potential members.
    - Mentoring new members: will be set up after we know actual new members; Linda Sellars and Tiffany Rivera-Prescott are also considering joining.
    - May 29 is the date for potential members to withdraw for consideration.
  3. Finance Council Report:
    - 2021 projections show a deficit budget, but should be manageable with an occupant in the school and current cash in the bank.
    - Sunday envelope collection down by about 25%; Holy Days down by 50%. Our April collection was higher than expected due to a generous gift. More people are using PayPal now (about \$200/week); EFTs make up about 25% of all Sunday envelope income. Very helpful to have confidence that money is available every week or month.
    - Leasing of school looks positive. The lease was presented to Quantum STEAM Academy (STEM with Arts added) last week; we're waiting for its return with possible changes; \$115,000 asked for rent, which covers mortgage payment; MN Department of Education pays \$1430/student, need 74 students to make our mortgage payment. We will receive more rent if the school has > 74 students. We set June 19 deadline to sign lease.
    - We're currently paying only mortgage interest of about \$3000/month rather than the full amount of \$9450. We will ask for 4 more months of interest only.
  4. Updates: (Any updates received to be sent out via e-mail to the council members prior to the meeting)
    - Buildings & Facilities: Social hall & hallway have been painted; partitions in bathrooms will be installed soon.
    - Community of Saints: distance learning since March; last day of school very soon. Several Masses at COS have been recorded for students and a slide show for the 18 spring graduates was prepared. Congratulatory lawn signs have been given to the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders by Angie Lopez, school secretary. A second kindergarten class will open this fall.
    - Loaves & Fishes: No in-person dining, handout of meals only. Number of meals since April 1 is up 10% from a year ago. When things open up more r/t Covid 19, our kitchen may be used to prepare food for other sites.
    - Casa Guadalupana: residents are gardening now!
- No reports on the following:
- St Mary's Clinic
  - Men's Club

- Rosary Society
- Lay Advisory Board
- Liturgy Committee
- Faith Formation

5. Social Media Policy Review: Ellen was the lead person in creating the draft policy, with assistance from Becky and Karen. It was developed in response to social media postings that didn't reflect the perspectives of the parish. The policy would be for parishioners, volunteers and staff members, and could be posted on the parish Facebook page and on the website. It would be an expectation, rather than a contract. A summary paragraph will be added and the policy will be on the June meeting agenda for consideration.
6. Parish Census Update: John reported on the recent project to connect with parishioners and update parish records. One discovery is that the parish's aging population uses few electronics. About 250 letters were sent to parishioners that callers weren't able to reach by phone. We now have about 135 email addresses and the names of about 525 people who have not declined membership since the last time a census was done. Linda Rivera is updating parish records based on the new information.

It was suggested that we have a phone tree to check on all parishioners every few months: How are you doing? Do you need anything? Census callers could call the same people that were on their original lists since they would be familiar with them. Or, we could target those who are shut-ins or with limited physical abilities for calls. Several callers have indicated they enjoyed calling fellow parishioners.

7. Parish Mass & Picnic August 15<sup>th</sup> at COS: The plan is to have Mass at 4:30 p.m. There is plenty of room on the property for social distancing. Food would not be a potluck. An option could be for the parish to provide food, and perhaps serve it to stay within state Covid 19 safety guidelines. Logistics will be discussed at the June meeting.
8. Parish Constitution Discussion: Becky brought up the fact that sections need to be corrected, updated. Questions were asked about appropriate placing of information; should standing committees be in by-laws rather than in the constitution, since it's easier to amend by-laws than the constitution? Retiring council members Ellen and Becky and trustee Karen will take the lead in cleaning up the current constitution, and suggesting what is appropriate to include in the constitution and in the by-laws. They will bring this to the September meeting.
9. Other Business
  - Weekend Masses: Public Masses will resume July 18 & 19 after Fr. Steve's 3 week vacation. Alan will "double video" 3 weeks of Masses with Fr. Steve for posting on our website. We will continue to record Masses after public Masses begin. Cameras will face forward, so it's doubtful any of the congregation will be recorded, in case there are concerns about privacy. It will be clearly announced to all that we will be recording the live 4:15 Mass each Saturday for posting Sunday a.m. There will be a second live Mass at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday that will not be recorded.
  - Parish priority updates: Janelle asked about dates for first sacraments for young people. It was suggested that August 2 with its loaves & fishes scripture could be the First Communion Mass.
  - An in-person PARTY for retiring council members will be planned when stay-safe guidelines allow.
  - Parish anniversaries: May 1 is the date of the first Mass in the new building and Sept. 20 is the date of the dedication of the new building, both in 1970. Ideas about how to observe these anniversaries will be on the June agenda.

10. Meeting facilitators & note takers for future meetings

- Summer meeting schedule

- i. June 25<sup>th</sup>      Facilitator Suzanne      Note Taker Joanne
- ii. August 27<sup>th</sup>      Facilitator Joanne      Note Taker Barb

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm, June 25, 2020.

Facilitator: Suzanne

Note Taker: Joanne