

**St. Augustine Church
Parish Council Meeting
February 26, 2024
7 p.m.**

Attendance: Mickie White, Calvin White, Bonnie Robertson, Dave Dilyn, Maria Boyer, Robin McMarlin, Fr. Ben, Jeannie Rawlings, Bob Duda, Fr. Bill, Bill Shaffer, Jo Ann Whigham, Matt Rawlings, Ed Zubek, Shaemus, Dorothy Barr, Joe Barr, Lin Janson, Tom Smith, Jeannie Rawlings, Deacon Chris, Michelle Rivera, Andrea Whinnery, Theresa Ortiz, Roseanne Barnhart, Maria Rivera, Shaemus, Kate Slosar, Jennifer Weishart, Mary Jo Miceli, Barbara Kuhel

Opening Prayer: Dorothy Barr

Approval of Minutes- no changes

PSR Program / Rainbow Camp Report – Matt Rawlings

PSR:

- We are currently holding PSR classes from 9:30-10:30 AM on Sunday mornings
- This decision was made after a parent survey determined that 94% of enrolled families preferred to have class on the weekend.
- As a Parish, we chose the time to be in between the two Sunday Masses so as to encourage Mass participation.
- 16 enrolled children
- Weekly attendance: 9-11 children
- First Communion class has 5 children.
- First Communion date: April 28 during 11:00 AM Mass
- Possibility of date change to April 21, tentative on family and Parish approval
- We did not have any students enroll for Confirmation this year.
- Last day of classes: May 5, 2024
- Will have Vacation Bible School after the end of PSR and before the start of Rainbow Camp. Dates TBD

Rainbow Camp:

- Camp dates: June 24 through July 26, 2024
- Enrollment for 2024 will open on April 8 at 8:00 AM
- Online application and paper copies available in the rectory
- We are in the process of applying to be an ACE Approved program. ACE is an aftercare enrichment funding program through the state of Ohio. Parents can apply for funds and use them to pay for camp. The state will either reimburse families who make payments toward camp, or the state will pay us directly for the service we provide.
- We will be having a booth and information day to help parents apply for ACE if they need financial assistance. The process is simple and most, if not all, of our families will qualify for this assistance.
- Due to this option for funding, we have slightly increased our price this year to

\$60/week instead of \$50/week, \$300 for the full 5-week program.

- It is important to us to continue to keep our camp as affordable as possible for families while still maintaining the quality of our programming and attempting to close the deficit of family contribution vs. actual cost of child attendance.
- We will still offer scholarships to families who request financial aid and will again have a scholarship fund to support struggling families.
- We will also offer a multi-child family discount.

Music Director Report – Bill Shaffer

None

Liturgy Committee Report – Bill Shaffer

Liturgy Committee Minutes January 8th 2024 7pm

Present: Dave Dilyn, Bonnie Robertson, Maria Rivera, Tom Smith, Renee Zorger, Terry Hogan, Robin McMarlin, Jeannie Rawlings, Peggy Gerovac, Roseanne Barnhart and Fr. Ben Jimenez

- Fr. Ben opened the meeting in prayer
 - Peggy Gerovac ran the meeting because of car trouble for Bill Shaffer
- Old Business Discussed
- Review of Advent
 - New procedure for Eucharistic Ministers-videos made, still being edited, will roll out soon. Links to the videos, written announcement in bulletin and verbal announcements for all EM's to watch the video
 - Deaf Readings-overall positive; suggestion to make video for readers; Fr. Ben will commence these shortly
 - Christmas Eve/Day Masses-well attended; children's signing choir well received; discussion about finding more opportunities for community members to become involved in the different Christmas masses next year.
- New Business:
- Mass Time Change/Condensing-idea of moving from two Sunday morning masses into one; lively discussions about the current differences between the two masses; concern for PSR as it stands and their schedule. A straw vote was taken, with unanimous consensus that this should not be done
 - Lent-Ash Wednesday mass times to follow Holy Day of Obligation schedule
 - Taize Service-brief explanation of what this is; unopposed support for trying one this year with an article for the bulletin with explanation; invitations to surrounding Catholic Churches should also be made.
 - Stations of the Cross-discussion about what was done in the past; suggested that different ministries should lead the reflection in different weeks with guidance from the Liturgy Committee; realization of the short amount of time to prepare

- Offertory-confusion about who is asked and how they are asked for each mass; suggestion to formalize the process and have either a minister pick people before mass or have a schedule of people; a great way to get more parishioners involved
- Bulletin-noted that the current bulletin does not mention the 11am mass as being fully communicated for the Deaf, or that any masses are interpreted

School Building/Elevator – Bob Duda

Tuck-pointing is finished. Coon Company did the work and now they are evaluating to make sure what needed to be done did get finished.

Barber Hoffman the engineering company is working through the evaluation

Hunger Center – Matt Rawlings

There has been no communication

There will be an executive committee meeting soon regarding this since it has been about 9 months that the MOU has been with the legal department at Catholic Charities.

Parish Cupboard and Closet Update- Maria Boyer

- We served 858 families in November 1,040 in December and 923 families in the month of January.
- We registered 168 new families in November, 210 in December and 177 new families in the month of January.

We have continued to grow and are serving over 200 families each Saturday. We are so blessed to have dedicated volunteers who come each week and groups from various churches and other organizations that come monthly to volunteer.

Each week, it seems, there is a story of change and redemption that unfolds about someone we have served. These stories become food for our souls and they keep us committed to the good that this ministry provides. I want to tell just one such story in this report.

A young woman and a man came into the check in desk. The woman was clutching her coat and seemed visibly scared and upset. I asked for her name and the man answered for her. This put me immediately on alert. I proceeded with the check in and gave them baskets to shop. I turned to 2 other volunteers to watch them because I felt something was wrong and perhaps the woman was a victim of human trafficking. They alerted Deacon Chris and a few other volunteers. We quickly were able to separate her from the man she was with and learned our suspicions were correct. In the end, she opened up and we were able to help this woman leave an environment where she didn't feel safe and get her into one where she would be safe.

This is the difference in the Cupboard and Closet. Our ministry sees the person. When you treat others with dignity and take the time to connect, so much more can be accomplished.

Please keep our parish ministry in your prayers!

Grant request for wheelchair van – Bob Duda

We received the grant for one van! Yeah! They will pay for 80% up to \$80,000 for a van. There is a Zoom meeting coming up that Bob will attend to find out the logistics of the grant.

Ministry to the Deaf –Jeannie Rawlings

- Since we last met, the Signing Choir has performed the Christmas show here at St. Augustine Church, Regina Health Center, St. Augustine Manor, CSJ Mother House and Sheldon Senior Living.
- Will be performing on March 2 at Kent State for Lip Synch
- Mary's Rosary Guild for the Deaf had a Welcome Party and installation of Officers. Jeannie Rawlings-President, Karen Halupnik - VP, Maria Rivera- Treasurer, Kate Slozar- Secretary
- March 16, Retreat in Deaf Club Room by Monsignor Nelson

New Business:

1. Building for Sale – Ed Zubek

There is a building and a house for sale on the property next to us. New owner bought it 2 years ago for \$400,000. Ed called Howard Hanna and they are asking \$605,000.

The owner has talked to Fr. Bill about purchasing the house. Ed and Fr. Bill will take a look at it with the owner. Should we find out if there are any environmental issues? Yes definitely. Question about the Bishop owning it but we would pay for it? Yes, that is true. The Diocese would have to approve the purchase.

Is this something that we should pursue? Overwhelmingly yes!

Passed

2. New Pastoral Associate of Outreach – Anthony Camino

We want to become more collaborative with other area churches. We need somebody to help us negotiate with other area programs.

Mike Grogan is a volunteer here. He helps street people and those without housing to get their credentials. He has decided to retire and we needed someone to continue his work so Anthony will be doing that. He will also be working with the Cupboard and Closet.

3. Fundraising/Capital Campaigns

We should address fundraising. We have added a lot of staff lately. Personnel costs have increased.

Please think about if you would like to participate in this committee or if there is someone you know who would like to participate. We would need to have a goal in mind for what we would want to raise.

Old Business:

1. Parishioner Membership

Please update your membership if you have not done so. Please ask any other parishioners if they are registered. There was a suggestion for greeters at the entrances to make people feel welcome. There was discussion about making sure people feel welcome.

2. Church Lighting

We asked for an engineer to look at the lighting in our church. Bob is scheduling a meeting with Ron Friedman, a Lighting Designer, to look at our needs.

3. Parish Mission March 18, 19, and 20

4. Bell Choir will play at 11:00 am Mass on Sunday March 3rd

5. There was a suggestion for sending get well cards –we already try to include people in our prayer list and do a pastoral visit

6. Bible Study with Andrea and Pat T. - this will begin on April 3rd

Closing Prayer – Our Father

Next meeting – May 20, 2024

Adjournment- 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Boyer