

St. Casimir Parish Council Meeting

Monday, August 21, 2023

In attendance: Fr. Ryan Pietrocarlo
Mira Gasko
Jose Magallon
Sara Kurzhal
Ann Marie Sommers
Vicki Kruszka

OPENING PRAYER led by Fr. Ryan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motioned by Ann Marie Sommers and seconded by Sara Kurzhal

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Parish Festival – The neighbors across the street are letting us use their nicely set-up yard section for the festival. We have permission for Webster Street to be closed during the festival. Most of the food will be donated, and all proceeds from the festival will go towards the cost of the new boiler. We already have \$1,000.00 in sponsorships.
- b. Ministry to the Sick and Homebound – Sara Kurzhal said the English side is up and running, and we are getting ready to start up the Spanish side. Sara and Mira are keeping tabs on the status of the sick and homebound; several people have passed away since our last meeting. The English side has eight volunteers – we will do a yearly review of volunteers and people to visit.
- c. Visibility of Council Members – Fr. Ryan discussed Parish Council members wearing nametags at whatever Mass they attend. That way, parishioners will know who we are and will be able to discuss things about which they are concerned, and we can bring questions/ideas/concerns to the council meetings.
- d. Amendment to the Council Statutes - Fr. Ryan made a couple small amendments to the Parish Council Statutes under the Youth and Young Adult Representative sections, removing the “three-year term” language and inserting “indefinitely” instead.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Eucharistic Small Groups – Fr. Ryan said Paul Fujawa said that the Holy Name Society will do (English) sessions on the Eucharist as part of the Diocesan 3-year Eucharistic Revival program. There will be seven sessions with a video followed by a discussion of the video. These will be held in the fall of 2023 or spring of 2024.
- b. Council Meeting Day and Time – Fr. Ryan advised that the Parish Council meetings will be on Wednesdays at 6:30pm beginning with the October 18th meeting to accommodate the priest schedules.
- c. Parish Report by Fr. Ryan - (see below)

PARISH REPORT ITEMS

1. New staffing: Fr. Felipe, who will be taking charge as Director of Liturgies along with Adult Faith Formation. In addition, Brian Vetter was ordained as Deacon August 27, 2023, and in addition to his deacon duties, he will also be teaching at St. Adalbert School
 2. Iris Campos is part of the St. Adalbert office staff. Among her duties will be assisting with the bulletins and the petitions for each Mass.
 3. CCD classes at St. Casimir School will now be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm instead of Saturday mornings. These run from September 5, 2023, through the end of April 2024.
 4. Confirmation prep classes at St. Casimir School will be held on Thursdays beginning September 7, 2023, from 7:00 to 8:30pm.
 5. We had 29 youth attending the World Youth Day in Portugal. The next WYD will be held in 2027 in Seoul, South Korea.
 6. The Eucharistic Congress will be held in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024. We will do fundraising to help with the costs of travel, hotels, etc.
 7. St. Casimir's 40 Hours Devotion will be held March 3-5, 2024 (during our patron saint's feast day). Fr. Felipe will begin to organize adoration schedules, etc., during this time.
 8. The 4th Saturday confessions before Mass will be discontinued for now, with possible Lent and Advent times being introduced, as it is often very hard for the priests to be here with multiple other duties.
 9. There will be an Evangelistic Retreat here at St. Casimir in Spanish on Saturday, February 17, 2024.
 10. There will be a Family Ministry Retreat for married couples on February 10/11, 2024, at Lindenwood Retreat Center in Donaldson, IN.
 11. The bathroom work in St. Casimir's Church has begun and should be finished by October.
 12. A down-payment of \$20,000 has been made on a new boiler at St. Casimir. Fr. Ryan will apply for the 'parish-in-need' grant to hopefully assist with the \$193,000.00 total cost.
 13. The painting in the halls in the St. Casimir school building has been completed, along with the painting of the outside ramp to the Noah's Ark room.
 14. Some patch-up roof work was done on the annex roof; the skylight was covered as it was leaking, along with a small hole at the top of the stairs. The cost was \$7000, of which half was paid by St. Adalbert's since they also use the school building.
 15. Fr. Ryan as applied for another grant to put new doors on the school building along with improved lighting – he will find out in about two weeks if we will receive the grant.
 16. The Youth and Young Adult groups will nominate members for the Parish Council.
- d. Project Weed Patrol - Mira and Jeanie Z. had started weeding areas around the school and church, and they decided to make it into a ministry and asked for volunteers to assist. Six people have signed up from the 9:30 Mass recruitment, and they will be asking people from the 11:30 Mass if anyone wishes to help, too. Main weeding has been done and now only maintenance is required to keep things in check. Sections will be assigned to groups of two.

Mira asked if the young men who live in the old rectory might help out picking up trash around the church area and perhaps also water the flowers with the hose by the house. In the spring, on the weekend of April 13-14, a second collection will be had for St. Casimir's "Landscape/Beautification Fund." Mums have already been planted for the fall along with bulbs for spring flowers.

- e. Parish Anniversary - A discussion was held regarding having a brunch on Sunday, March 4, 2024, at the beginning of our 40 Hours. We have petitioned to have one 10:30am bilingual Mass on Sunday. Mira will be discussing this more with Fr. Felipe.

ADDITIONAL POINTS OF DISCUSSION FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

n/a

CLOSING PRAYER led by Fr. Ryan.

Next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6:30pm in the meeting room.