

Minutes

Church of St. Mary
Parish Council
January 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

I. Opening Prayer
Sandy Franco

II. Quorum

Attendance: Sandy Franco, Terry Thompson, Fr. Paul Boudreau; Deacon Dana Garry; Monique Madden, Tonianne Bankoski, Laura Burgess; David Berthiaume; Janet Nocek; Katherine Hunter

III, Minutes of November 14, 2017 meeting were reviewed and adopted.

IV. Old Business

- a) Posting photos of Parish Council members – pictures were taken of those in attendance
- b) Updating website- Laura Burgess reported that the updates are complete and a feedback form for parishioners to use is on the website. Very well done.
- c) Adding our church to the list of open and inclusive Catholic communities-Fr. Paul reported that it has been accomplished. Our parish is the second in the state to be added to the list. Gaychurch.org lists many parishes.
- d) Sandy reported she is working on the planned letter to parishioners.
- e) G-mail account for parishioner use- email created and will be added to webpage: smcparishcouncil@gmail.com
- f) Inviting parishioners to join Parish Council. – Discussion. We need two teens. Currently teen Council members are not allowed to vote according to the Parish bylaws. This was questioned and discussed, with interest expressed in allowing the teens more investment in the parish that is their future. At next meeting, the Council will explore and possible change the bylaws to allow teen representatives a vote. **ACTION:** The Council decided that the bylaws can be amended during a meeting, by a vote in favor by a 2/3 majority of the quorum present at the meeting. A bylaws change will be brought up to a vote only after the question is raised and noted during minutes of a prior meeting. This was raised by Terry Thompson, seconded by Janet Nocek, and passed unanimously.

V. Finance Committee Report – No report. It was noted that a financial report to the parishioners has been anticipated for some time. The Finance Committee will meet on January 22.

VI. Committee updates

- a) Faith Formation – Sue Ferraiolo could not attend; Laura Burgess noted the confirmation date is to be decided and the office is attempting to learn the date as the passing of Monsignor Brown has affected the Diocese’s scheduling. Advent intergenerational program was a wonderful success- all catechists helped. Now working on providing a Lenten Intergenerational program. The pageant was successful and enjoyed during the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass. Candy Canes were also distributed on cars during that Mass by members of the youth group (with notes made by faith formation students). Nice surprise for the parish. *Notes for next year candy cane surprise:* need at least double the number of candy canes, have the note include that the candy cane is from our church.
- b) Ladies’ Guild – no report.
- c) Youth Group- Caroline Thompson was not present; the upcoming Rockathon (January) will benefit various local and other charities. A ski retreat is planned for February. Adult assistance is always welcome for these activities.
- d) Website was discussed above
- e) Rectory Committee – no report. Brian Wallace was not present.
- f) Liturgical Dance – The Council expressed its appreciation to Toniane and to Rose Arceri for the very well received performance of liturgical dance at all masses during Advent. The participants reportedly enjoyed and were uplifted as much as the parishioners by the wonderful performance.

VII. New Business

- a) Input from parishioners: Jeanne Samolik is invited to council meetings.
It was noted that St. Mary’s does not include announcements of church services in the local press as other churches in Portland regularly do post. Only the Knights regularly post announcements (very nicely). The Council decided to have notices of events to be posted in the Rivereast News Bulletin. Terry Thompson will work with Fr. Paul and Anna to include such events as mass times, teen

- activities and Parish Council meetings. The website address will be publicized.
- b) Christmas Masses – Discussed whether new people felt welcome.
 - c) To encourage others to participate in parish life, the Council will hold a future discussion of how we explain the benefit of attending mass and being involved in parish life.

VIII. Open discussion

David noted a parishioner had heard of a new diocesan assessment for a large amount. Fr Paul said he did not know of any such assessment and possibly this was confusion with a news story regarding another diocese.

It was noted that there may be another “shake-up” for the Diocese at some point due in part to the unexpected passing of another priest. There is no information yet.

There was a Christmas morning breakfast in our Parish Hall sponsored by Schneider Engineering and the Schneider family. It was wonderful although attendance may have been affected by the weather. Making plans to have it again next year.

IX. Closing prayer – led by Terry Thompson.

X. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Nocek
January 15, 2018

