**OCTOBER 26, 2017 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**ST. MARY’S CHURCH, DEDHAM MA 02026**

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**In attendance:** Fr. Mark Storey, Elizabeth Healy, Ann Stano, Maria Brown, Rose Favret

Fr. Mark opened the meeting at 6:40pm with a prayer.

**Questions regarding items referred to in September minutes**

Fr. Mark had questions regarding several items on the 2016 informal surveys. Where did they the surveys come from, how was the information gathered and what was the outcome of the surveys? Per several council members to the best of our memories we said that the surveys were an insert in the bulletins. The surveys were filled out by parishioners and returned to Fr. Kelly’s attention. The surveys were anonymous. The council did not receive any feedback on the surveys because Fr. Kelly was re-assigned shortly after the surveys were gathered for review. Fr. Mark asked about the item on the survey regarding lack of outreach. Council said that we now have more staff to help with outreach for all age groups and it is a continued work in progress to find what and where resources are needed.

**Minutes**

The September 28, 2017 parish council minutes were reviewed and accepted.

**Christmas Bazaar Review**

Basket themes to date are: Family Game Night, Spa Basket, Making Cookies Basket, Pasta Might Basket, and Sports Themed Basket. Baskets will be raffled, as will some of the more special hand knitted items. Other items to be raffled (wine, etc.) There will be a baked items table, lunch food (Social Comm. discussing this possibility), pancake breakfast, and reasonably priced Christmas items for sale.

Parish Council member, Maria Brown, to check on the possibility of getting an ad on Catholic Radio regarding the bazaar. Also, to look at advertising in the local newspapers, possibly the Pilot. Large banner to be hung out in front of church announcing the bazaar. Delores Johnson, parish Ad. Min. to check on advertising the bazaar in other church bulletins. Fr. Mark to talk to parishioner regarding setting up a miniature Santa’s Village. is there a point person or committee for people to go to with questions regarding the bazaar?Flower baskets to be saved for bazaar use. Looking at selling St. Mary

Christmas cards with Mass offerings at the bazaar and after the bazaar.

**Pastoral Associate Update**

Elizabeth Healy, Pastoral Associate, said the first Donut Sunday on the first Sunday in October was a big hit. To continue Donut Sunday on each first Sunday of each month. Fr. Mark to see about possible local donut shop donations of donuts for our donut Sundays. Also, to possibly put out a donation basket at Donut Sundays. Gospel Study going well and considering doing Gospel Study in 2 sections. The movies, *The Nativity,* to be shown during Advent with accompanying study guide. In November, there will be a community gathering to make soup that will be delivered to people in bereavement or who are ill. Book club doing well as is the gospel study. The Memorial Mass has gotten some response, possibly to put and insert in the bulletin and announce the Memorial Mass at the All Saints and All Souls Masses. During Advent, Christmas family movies will be shown with one to possibly shown at the Community Theater. A trip is being planned to Elm Bank’s Festival of Trees in Wellesley. This event runs from Nov.24 to Dec.10 so the trip will be planned for that time frame. Committee being formed called “Mary’s Garden” to brainstorm about how best to keep the front planters looking their best.

**Life Teen Update**

The weekend of 10/28 the life Teens are doing the Haunted House. The fall retreat will be 11/17, 11/18 and 11/19. In two weeks the teens will be doing a *Cookie Walk*. The teens will make/buy 6 dozen cookies each and sell bags of cookies for $5.00 to people as they *“walk”* out after Mass.

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**Open Discussion**

The Parish Council members in attendance felt that it would be very positive to add the two new members to the council. It would be good to have new ideas. This would also be helpful because at times people’s some of the parish Council members schedules make it impossible for them to attend a council meeting; with adding new members the council will have more voices in attendance. Referred to Fr. Wayne.

The weekly bulletinsare not being taken home so the Parish Council members in attendance felt that the bulletins should be handed out after Mass. The logistics of this need to be worked out, who hands them out, ushers, greeters. Can this be worked out and in place by the second weekend in November? Referred to Fr. Wayne.

Rosary Garden was discussed to possibly have done in the spring. To direct Eagle Scout to Fr. Wayne. For consideration, another Eagle Scout project can be a new statue of Mary in the little side grotto.

Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on November 16 at 6:30pm. Points for next meeting will be Advent and the Christmas Bazaar.

Meeting closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Rose M. Favret