**September 28, 2017 Parish Council Meeting**

**St. Mary’s Church, Dedham Ma. 02026**

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**In attendance:** Fr. Wayne Belschner, Kathy Reda, Bill Rosa, Elizabeth Healy, Ann Stano, Kevin Rosa, Rose Favret

Bill Killion, Maria Brown

Fr. Wayne opened meeting at 6:40pm, with a prayer.

**Summer Programs/Upcoming Programs**

Fr. Wayne welcomed all council members from our summer hiatus. Fr. Wayne began with a review of the summer’s activities. Kevin Rosa, youth Minister/ROC Coordinator, said that he and Melissa Choate, Dir. or Religious Ed/EDGE Coordinator, had a very successful turn out for the summer bible school. Middle school and high school students help out. All the children had a very good time and about 20 children participated. Not all the children were parishioners. There are videos on Facebook of some of the bible school activities. Kevin continued by saying that the movie nights were enjoyed by the children. The rope climbing event for the teens was well received. During July and August activities for the teens were available 5 days a week for them to participate in. Now that school is in session, Mondays and Wednesdays will be home work days. There was a complete overhaul to the Life House and it was dedicated to Shaun Flynn. Fr. Wayne said that 2 scholarships are to be offered in honor of Bishop Dooher. Kevin and teens participated in an interview about the LIFE TEEN program on Catholic TV. Kevin to participate with Dedham School Superintendent, Michael Welch, Youth Commissioner Robert Blaney and the school principals in putting together an outreach task force to work with the Dedham school teens. On October 26 there is a film that Kevin will be attending regarding drug intervention.

**Pastoral Programming**

Elizabeth Healy, Pastoral Associate, said that all the senior outings went well. Tours of the Elm Bank gardens, MSF, and the Northend tour were all well received. A Christmas show outing on December 8 is being planned. The bocce court was found to be too expensive to build. The Rosary walking group is continuing. As part of the Pastoral programming Fr. Wayne mentioned the series on The Catholic Mass Explored. This series contains wonderful videos and insights on the Mass. There is an introductory session for teens on Apologetics being given by Fr. Wayne on October 3. Book clubs have been well attended. Fr. Wayne asked to let him know of any other series/talks/programs that might be of interest. It was mentioned that programing is needed for the college students including ages up to 30 years. The church loses them in this age bracket and some do not ever return to the church. We need contact information on these students and young adults to keep in touch and stay connected with them. Fr. Mark Storey will be guiding a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2018. Also as part of the Pastoral Programming, a coffee and donut hour is being planned for the first Sunday each month after the 9am family Mass.

**Informal 2016 Surveys**

The council then moved on to review the 2016 parish survey.

St Mary’s strengths are:

* Music and architecture is beautiful.
* Serves the community well.
* The Holy Spirit can be felt.
* Encourages people to attend Mass more than 1 time a week.
* Youth groups are excellent.
* All age groups are welcomed.
* CCD well led and organized.
* Good priests.
* There are volunteer opportunities for everyone.
* Strong outreach for the youths.
* Strong sense of social justice.

Weaknesses are:

* Sermons not relevant.
* Too much talk regarding money.
* More invitations to parish council and finance committee meetings.
* No outreach to people who are catholic in name only.
* Be more welcoming.
* Lack of a 9am daily Mass.
* More lectures on faith.
* More outreach to parishioners.

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**Old/New Business**

Being considered is a beautiful play set for the church yard area (Noah’s Ark) for the children.

A soup and bread delivery ministry for parishioners struggling with bereavement.

Welcome packets for new parishioners, Baptismal gifts for all our newly baptized, and bereavement packets.

Plans for the Christmas Bazaar are under way. The date is Saturday, November 18 in Mary Hall. There will be:

* A penny raffle
* Christmas items for sale
* Themed gift baskets for raffle.
* Baked goods and home-made food tables.
* Hand-made knitted items for sale and raffle.
* 10am free pancake breakfast for the children.
* 12pm pictures with Santa

In development; publicity, an announcement banner and getting the word out about the bazaar to other parishes.

For All Souls Day, November 2, there will be an additional Mass. Letters to go out to families of recently deceased about this special Mass. Also, memorial candles will be offered for $10.00 and will be lite for the month of November.

A Rosary Garden is being considered. Possibly as an Eagle Scout project.

**Parish Council Items**

A request by the parish council to not do announcements after Mass. All pertinent information is covered in the weekly bulletin and we should be encouraging all parishioners to take home a bulletin. Council explored new ways to communicate with people such as Instagram, twitter, the website.

**Council meeting schedule is:**

**Meetings will be on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm and tentatively in the parish center. Dates are:**

**October 19, November 16, December 21, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21**

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Rose M. Favret