

Parish Council Meeting 3/14/24

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review and Vote on January Minutes
3. In attendance: Fr. Wayne Belschner, Deacon Kelley McCormick, Nancy McCormick, Elizabeth Healy, Dolores Johnson, Olivia Dooley, Bill Rosa, Kathy Reda, Ann Stano, Maria Brown
4. Parish Identity
 - a. **Life Teen**
 - i. Currently there are 15 – 20 teens who come to Life nights on Sundays, with a significant amount of teens stepping up to help out with Mass.
 - ii. A retreat to Camp Methodios is planned for the weekend of April 19th - April 21st.
 - b. **Pastoral**
 - i. All regular programming continues to go well.
 - c. **Seniors**
 - i. The senior luncheons continue – nothing planned for the month of March, the next one will be planned for the beginning of April.
 - ii. The *Friend to Friend* group continues to meet quarterly for note writing. People are really enjoying receiving their cards.
 - d. **Young Adults**
 - i. The *Young Adult* group starts with the 7:00 pm Mass with a light dinner to follow, then the Rosary. Plans are underway for a field trip to an *escape room*.
 - e. **Connected in Christ**
 - i. The numbers have been very consistent. The last speaker, Esther Munt-Brooks, was well received. Discussions are underway for new adventures, such as: a bowling excursion, a coffee and a hike outing, a retreat to Betania II or the St. Joseph Retreat House.
 - f. **Men & Women's Groups**
 - i. The men's group is going well. The next women's gathering will take place on April 11th.

g. Parish Cemetery

- i. There are plenty of lots available. We now bury double deep instead of side by side.

h. Religious Education

i. K-5

- 1. Attendance has been consistent. Grade 2 has been the main focus, with First Holy Communion scheduled for Saturday, May 11th.

ii. EDGE

- 1. Monet teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grades, but will be handing off the 8th grade students to Matt Marquet come September.
- 2. The program ends on June 7th.

iii. ROC

- 1. Confirmation is scheduled for April 5th.
- 2. The Archdiocese has lowered the age of Confirmation from 10th grade to 8th grade. We will try and have the changes in place for 2025.
- 3. Parents are invited to a meeting regarding these changes on March 21st at 6:00 pm in the church.

5. RCIA

Two candidates will be receiving the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

6. New Family Activities

- i. Meeting monthly for dinner gatherings. We have been working off of Deacon Kelley's baptism list to invite new young families.
- ii. A St. Patrick's Day celebration was enjoyed by all on March 16th.
- iii. A Bible study is being planned for the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.
- iv. A Mother's Retreat will take place on Saturday, May 25th here at St. Mary's. Fr. Hines will give two talks.

7. Lenten

- a. A Lenten Mission program has been taped for Dedham TV.
- b. After the Eucharistic Procession on Holy Thursday, we will have our traditional visit to nearby churches
- c. A presentation of the Seven Last Words of Christ will take place on Palm Sunday, as well as on Good Friday. Brandon Fitts' Lifeteen ministry will participate.
- d. Holy week schedule has expanded hours for confession.
- e. Many of those participating in the Lenten 40 Challenge have stepped up to take a weekly Holy Hour.
- f. People from the New Family group will be asked to participate in the feet washing at the Holy Thursday Mass.

- g. An Easter egg hunt will take place after the 9:00 am family Mass.

8. Adult Altar Servers for Funerals

- a. We have recruited four new Altar servers.

9. Miscellaneous

- a. Sunrise service.
- b. For the feast of St. Joseph, we had our annual reception after the daily Masses. Those who had prepared for Consecration to St. Joseph, prayed an act of Consecration after Mass.
- c. A marriage prep day-log program has been set for Saturday, April 27th.

10. Closing

11. Dismissal