

# St. Joseph Parish Council September Minutes

**November 17, 2013**

The November meeting of the Parish Council was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President John Quallen.

Msgr. Mike opened the meeting with prayer.

The September minutes were approved.

John Arasimowicz reported that:

- All the C. C. D. teachers and volunteers reported back this year and new volunteers were not needed at this time.
- There are 113 students in the program
- Fourteen young adults and one adult were confirmed on 10/14/2013
- CORI checks have been completed on all adults involved with the children.
- A food drive is presently underway
- A city wide high school retreat day is scheduled for November 24<sup>th</sup> at 1-6 p.m. at St. Joseph High School
- First Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday 1/11/14 at 10 a.m. and First Communion for Saturday 5/3/14 at 10 a.m.
- Pictures of the All Saint's Parade and schedules were available at the P. C. entrance.
- 25 new confirmation students at present.
- Andy Canata noted that we can improve the process for helping Confirmandi achieve their community service requirement by making appropriate jobs available for youth of the parish and better coordinating their involvement in parish activities.

Pat Momnie gave a moving thank you to all those who helped her and her husband during his illness and passing. She stated that she and her family were overwhelmed with the kindness of so many parishioners. She is planning Mass and Anointing services at Berkshiretown and Providence Court during Advent and Christmas. Fruit baskets will be given from the Parish to several folks who will be alone at Christmas.

Peg Dunlop reported that the St. Anne Society:

- Sponsored and helped with the Pasta dinner
- Are planning a Soup and Bread supper on Wednesday November 20 and that Sheriff Bowler will be the speaker for the evening.
- Is in charge of the bake sale at the Bazaar on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and requested baked items to be donated
- The Bazaar runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Will close their season with a Christmas Tea and group attendance at the 4 p.m. Mass on December 14<sup>th</sup>

Reports from M. Wheeler and various Website committee members were that:

- Updates have been made to the Website – The cemetery section was added, and the home page was updated.
- Thanksgiving Turkey donations are included.
- 15 families have thus far moved to the Direct Giving program.

- R. Costello has a Google analysis registered so that we will be able to know how many visits are being made to the site.
- There has not been a major advertising campaign about the giving program, but there are some posters discreetly distributed in the church.

Jack Laviolette reported that:

- Festival of roots was very successful.
- Fall Cleanup day had good participation and went very well. There were several new participants, which is very encouraging.
- Church indoor projects to be considered for the spring.
- The K of C will supply refreshment for the Youth Retreat.
- The K of C is planning a special Mass for the unborn on February 23, 2014 at the 11:30 Mass.
- A Lenten Fish Fry and Ham and Bean Dinner are in the planning stages and dates are TBA

Parish Nurse, Marilee McDonough, R.N. reported on her activities:

- 35 flu shots were given out at the Food Pantry at no Charge. For those who had insurance coverage, the information was taken and given to the VNA
- She displayed and passed around a sample of the beautiful baby blanket and card that is given to newly baptized infants on their initiation day.
- Msgr. Mike remarked that the supply of Baptismal Bibs is getting low.

Gerry Dahrouge reported that the Pasta Dinner on 11/9/13 was a huge success. Many accolades were received. The dinner was a sell out and made in excess of \$2000 net profit.

Nancy Prezenik reminded folks that the Prayer Shawl Ministry is still active and if anyone is in need of a shawl or would like to participate should contact her.

Pastor's Report

- Msgr. thanked Jack Laviolette for all the effort he expends on church activities, particularly the recent parking lot repair and the Fall clean up.
- A special Sacred Music Concert is being planned for December 6, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the church. Barry Kingston of the Spirit Team will perform. Light refreshments will be available in the P.C. following the concert.
- The Diocese will close on the sale of All Souls Church on November 29.
- There has been some interest in St. Mary's Church. However, some serious damage has occurred there due to vandalism. The copper gutters and downspouts were all stolen, and a bronze fitting was removed from the oil tank. As a result there is an oil spill in the church basement. Insurance should cover the losses from these incidents.
- Non-denominational stained glass windows from St. Teresa Church will be used in the Berkshire Place facility chapel which will be named the St. Teresa Chapel. Several items have been given to Msgr. and will be put in place in the Parish Center trophy case. The Cross will be placed in the planned grotto on property here at St. Joseph.
- Father asked that the Hospitality gathering after Mass once a month following the 9 a.m. Mass begin soon. After some discussion the council determined that the second Sunday of the month was least likely to conflict with other regularly scheduled events.

Michele Madden requested that anyone who charges expenses to the church, please save and give her the receipts. She also requested that Lectors and Eucharistic ministers call her if they were willing and able to serve at the Christmas Liturgies. These have not been assigned since she was unaware of folks' plans for Christmas.

Jeff Vincent requested that folks volunteer to be contact people for the sale of 20/20 club tickets.

Anne Dunham discussed the status of the Giving Tree, She said that John and Tom Arasimowicz set up the tree for her but she would like help bringing the gifts from under the tree to the North Chapel where they will be stored until delivery day. The council identified this as an opportunity to involve CCD students to fulfill their community service commitment. Information regarding the Giving Tree will be placed on the Website.

Jim Armstrong reported that turkey meals will be distributed from one place this year. Each family in need will be given everything required for a complete meal for their family. The Food Pantry supplies food to 130 – 145 families each week. \$700 was collected from St. Joseph Parish for the Thanksgiving food needs. \$4000 was collected overall. A special donation of \$1700 was given from a former parishioner in California.

Joe Bourquard reported that the Armed Forces packages received a good response, and that Dick's Sporting Goods is working to supply winter gloves for the packages. Money collected will be used for shipping charges.

Andy Canata noted that that the path along Carson Street the length of the property was in very poor sanitary condition at the cleanup session. He requested that it should be included in regular maintenance to better represent the parish to the community. There was general agreement that we should incorporate this into regular maintenance to avoid a recurrence of it falling into a poor state.

Ray Costello reported that the City of Pittsfield is considering an ordinance on Food Trucks. The item being considered is that No trucks may set up business from Park Square to Maplewood Ave except in front of the St. Joseph property on North St. This could interfere with our special occasions such as 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, Polish Picnic, Sharing Roots Festival etc. Meeting to discuss this will be on Tuesday, 12/2/13 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Council members and friends of St Joseph are invited to attend to show support for modifying this ordinance to reduce potential impacts on our activities and fund raising.

Gerry Dahrouge mentioned that a surprise party is being planned for Fr. Deeker's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. His birthday is on December 26 and the party is planned for Sunday, December 29, 2013 following the 11:30 Mass. The St. Anne Society will host the event in the Parish Center.

Next meeting is **January 19, 2014.**

Msgr. Mike offered the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geraldine A. Dahrouge, secretary