

**St. Joseph Church  
Parish Council Minutes  
September 16, 2018**

Jim Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:00am and Msgr. Mike led the opening prayer. Msgr. also asked the Parish Council to remember Joe Dahrouge and all he did for our church.

The roll call was read and the following members were absent:

Council: Gene Cornell, Josephine Daviau, Betty Kirby, Anna Stack

Ex-Officio: Ray Costello, Peggy Dunlop, Michael Wheeler

Glenna Gerard was representing Jeff Gerard at the meeting.

**Minutes:** Mark Brennan made a motion to approve the May 20, 2018 minutes. Barb Dalo seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**Maintenance Report:** Jack Laviolette reported on the repairs to the church interior entrance. He thanked Jim Fitzgerald for his tremendous efforts in organizing volunteers to paint the front entrance. They did a tremendous job. There is still some minor cleanup to be done on the bottom portion and some joints that need to be caulked.

Jack also reported that Johnson Acoustics did a good job with the ceiling tiles. The tiles were donated and the parish only had to pay for labor.

Jack thanked Carmen Lacasse for modifying and lowering the lights. This work was all approved by the city inspector.

**Updates on summer activities:**

*Anointing Mass:* Carolyn Rousseau stated that the Anointing Mass was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and was very well attended. More than 70 people were anointed. 30-40 people attended the dinner that followed the Mass in the Parish Center. Carolyn thanked Bishop McDonnell, Msgr. Mike, and Father Geoff for their assistance in making this mass a success. Next year's mass is planned for May 19, 2019.

*Volunteer Picnic:* Don Rochelo reported that the picnic was held on June 6. Everything came together great and it was a fun time had by all. The magic of the parish made this a successful event.

*Polish Picnic:* Tom Arasimowicz reported that the picnic was held on July 17 and the event was well attended. Michele Madden stated that the last bill for this event was paid on Friday. They hope to have the final profit numbers together soon.

*Sharing Roots:* Before providing a report on the Sharing Roots festival, Jack mentioned that the summer cleanup was a tremendous success and he thanked everyone that participated. Msgr.

Mike mentioned that the work of all the volunteers saves the parish a lot of money and he is always grateful for everyone's help.

Jack stated that he does not yet have the final numbers for Sharing Roots. This festival helps to continue the process of moving forward peacefully as a community after the events of September 11. This year there were 9 food booths and more are being encouraged to join. There was a great representation of cultures. Jack thanked all of the chairs and volunteers and those that donated as they all helped to make this a success. Jim Armstrong thanked Jack and other chairs for taking the lead on these important events as without them it would be difficult to host these events.

*Seton Family and the Cathedral of the Beloved and upcoming retreat:* Carolyn Rousseau stated that the Seton Family sponsored the August 19 event. About 100 people were at the event which was conducted by area pastors who led prayer service and reflections. Carolyn encouraged council members to attend a future event as it is a great opportunity. The Seton group plans to do it again next year.

Carolyn also reported that the Sister Collette retreat sponsored by Seton group is scheduled for October 9 from 9am-3pm. Sr. Collette is a member of the Provincial Council for the Sisters of Charity in Greensburg, PA. Close to 70 people have signed up for this event so far. The cost is \$15 per person and checks are payable to Carolyn. This event can accommodate 100 plus people at the Parish Center. Sr. Collette's message focuses around doors and how we respond when God is knocking on our door. How do we also respond to others who may knock on our door?

Msgr. Mike indicated that Michele and a group of ladies also took part in the Cathedral of the Beloved this week and that the Confirmation class will be participating next week.

**Pastor's Notes:** Msgr. Mike indicated that the parish has started the cemetery drive and is conducting specific solicitations. The diocese has generously gifted the parish with \$150,000 towards this campaign, however there is a ways to go. The cemetery belongs to more than just St. Joseph's Church and all parishes are being asked to contribute to this project. Cathedral Corp. is doing the paperwork for us.

Msgr. Mike informed the Council that he was asked to be the administrator of St. Charles until a pastor is named. This will be in place to at least Advent. Msgr. Mike will oversee the parish but does not have to cover all of the masses on his own, other pastors are pitching in.

Msgr. Mike reminded everyone that for events that are to be held at the Center, Rectory, North or South Chapel, need to be added to the calendar. Michele must be notified of the event as each requires proper set up and take down time. We need to all be on the same page when it comes to the calendar.

Msgr. Mike thanked Mark and Gerry for their help at all Third Thursday events. It is important to have a presence at these events.

Msgr. Mike indicated that there has been no movement on the high school. Last spring a few people came to look at the place but no progress has been made at this point. Camp St. Michael

is also a diocesan property that is for sale. Msgr. Mike stated that a lot of work has to be done at both sites. Msgr. Mike asked to not have anything added to the walls near the vestibule as Jack has a poster on order. Msgr. also mentioned that parishioners have understood the needs of the parish and are increasing their weekly offertories.

Mardi Fezzie asked if there is someone in the Parish that is familiar with grants that could help us with funding for the cemetery project. Msgr. Mike indicated that Sister Jean previously mentioned grants through Cemetery and Funeral Associations. He mentioned that the Parish has approached both the funeral parlors and stone services to help.

Msgr. Mike also reported that Seminary Matthew Barone completed his time at the Parish and it was a pleasure to have him a part of our church for the summer.

**CCD Report:** John Arasimowicz informed the Council of the combined city-wide Confirmation classes. The class that consists of students from St. Joseph and St. Mark will be making their confirmation this fall. 20 students are a part of this program. For the city-wide combined class, we have about 55 students. This includes students from St. Charles, St. Mark, Sacred Heart and St. Joe. It is an 8 month program and these students will make confirmation next November. Three CCD teachers are a part of this class this year. They will meet on a monthly basis for three hours each time. The program includes a mass, youth ministry and time for reflection.

**Additional new business:**

Gerry Dahrouge indicated that the St. Anne's Society will host an Italian Dinner on October 20 at the Parish Center from 5-6pm. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. The meal will consist of pasta with chicken parmesan, salad, bread and desserts. The St. Anne's Society will help to provide baked goods and also serve at the event. She is hoping for a good turnout. All profits will go towards costs associated with the maintenance of the Parish Center.

Jim Armstrong indicated that there will always be a section for new business on each agenda to allow others to bring up ideas or highlight something that wasn't included on the agenda.

Msgr. Mike mentioned that St. Agnes Church is hosting a concert featuring John Michael Talbot on September 19 at 7pm. Tickets are \$30 and will support St. Agnes Academy in Dalton and St. Mary's School in Lee. Both schools have current openings for new students.

Jim stated that the next meeting will be held on October 21, 2018 after the 9 AM Mass in the North Chapel.

Msgr. Mike closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 10:25am.