

St. Joseph Parish Council Minutes January 19, 2014

The meeting began at 10 a.m. with 30 members in attendance and 5 guests. Deacon Pat led us in prayer.

John Arasimowicz announced that the first Communion class received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week. While the Christmas Pageant was canceled due to inclement weather, the children did participate in a lovely Epiphany activity at Mass on January 5th. He also noted that the Parish has lost a good and faithful servant and friend in the sudden passing of Linda Hermanski the Religious Education co-director this past Friday.

Pat Momnie announced that an Anointing Mass was done at Berkshire Town and the Day Care Center. She passed around a sample of a lovely Christmas ornament gift was given to all the shut-ins of our Parish. She mentioned that the Giving Tree gifts were very much appreciated by the recipients. Also a Healing/Anointing Mass is in the planning stage for our shut-ins. It will be held in the church with a reception to follow in the Parish Center. The RCIA program has 7 candidates for reception into the Catholic Church plus one member who will also be baptized.

Names for Valentine cards will be available for parishioners to send cards and/or mementoes to our shut-ins. Watch the bulletin for updates on these.

Peg Dunlop announced that the St. Anne Christmas Tea was held on December 14th, a small funeral reception was hosted by the Society in the North Chapel, and a wonderful birthday reception was held for Fr. Deeker in the Parish Center that was very well attended. The Society does not have meetings during the months of January, February and March but members are still active in any Parish functions as needed.

Mike Wheeler reported on the Website. Wendy Dottavio is updating the site with Parish Calendar activities on a regular basis and is keeping it current. The site is receiving about 250 hits a week. Glitches noted and to be addressed are: Old website does pop up in a Google Search, also those who have opted for the on-line giving are still receiving envelopes. The committee will be working to address these issues.

Bernie Scapin, in absentia, gave a report of the 12th Night through John Quallen who noted that 181 people attended the event. The Mass was beautiful with Msgr. Mike presiding and Fr. Geoffrey giving the homily. Deacons Pat and Sean assisted. Three kings presented the Eucharistic gifts while their pages offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and Myrrh. The 2015 12th Night co-chair people are Shaun and Anna Stack and John and Jane Bresnahan. A wrap up meeting is slated for January 22 in the Parish Center and Bonnie Mele is making her famous Pizza.

Jason Street suggested that the Parish consider changing the focus of the Youth group to be more oriented towards encouraging family activities with the Parish. Perhaps getting families working together in small events would be a method of getting more young people involved. He is willing to chair a committee on this project. This was put to a vote and accepted. Volunteers to help with this effort were encouraged to work with Jason.

Francis Spina reported on the Coffee Hour sponsored by the Council on the second Sunday of each month following the 9 a.m. Mass. While the first one in December was poorly attended due to little publicity and the busy time of year, the January Coffee Hour was nicely set up with tables and chairs that made the event more inviting. Attendance was good. It was suggested that the tables and chairs be set up each month.

Pastors Report:

Msgr. Mike reported that All Souls Church building has been sold and will be functioning as a day care center by summer. There is some interest in St. Mary's front property and maybe the whole area. Also, some very limited interest in the Holy Family property. The Foundation is up at the St. Teresa and work there is moving along.

The Diocese is not able to build a retirement facility for retiring clergy and is looking at using several of the rectories. St. Joseph Rectory is an accepted site. Two suites would be upgraded at the expense of the Diocese for two retired priests to live here. Fr. Decker's quarters would also be upgraded for him.

Fr. David turned 29 on January 18th.

Sr. Colette is working on a Movie Night project with contemporary movie/discussion for families and adults. This might begin during the Lenten season.

For other ongoing Education classes, Fr. Mike is considering a video program. He is looking into Friday Nights at 7 during Lent. It would not interfere with the Stations of the Cross and he hopes that some folks would perhaps go to both.

Lenten Vespers begin on March 9th at 6 p.m. for the six Sundays of Lent.

The 13 St. Anthony devotions begin on March 11 at 6 p.m. in the church

Msgr. Mike noted that the terrible conditions of the roads at the cemetery are being addressed. More than \$100,000 is needed to repair them all. The Diocese is seriously looking into the problem.

There is a bus trip to the Mohegan Sun scheduled for February 18th. Information is in the bulletin and website.

Msgr. offered a closing prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2014 in the Parish Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine A. Dabrouse, secretary