

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 2, 2017

Members Present: Fr. Ed Panek, Carl Wrede, Lorelei McDermott, Joyce Ochab, Cheryl Costello, Krissy Olson, Theresa Drangines, Kathy Hemler, Evelyn Mutzabaugh, Joel Barbel, Gianna Russo, Fr. Gilbert, and Kathy Nuelle

Spiritual Reflection: “Campaign Prayer”

Secretary Discernment: We are still in need of a secretary for this year. Until someone steps forward, we will have people volunteer to take notes at the meetings and Carl will format them. Kathy Nuelle volunteered to take notes for this meeting.

New Member Introductions: Two new members were introduced: Joel Barbel- the SAC representative and Gianna Russo – the youth representative.

Minutes from September Parish Council meeting were approved with one clarification: We are no longer using the accounting firm because we hired a new business manager, Jack Schuch.

Opening Comments (Fr. Ed): We had a great weekend to introduce the Sharing Our Faith, Securing Our Future Campaign. Fr. Ed received a lot of positive feedback throughout the weekend.

The Archdiocese is holding the annual Priest Day – where several priests gather to talk about issues. There should be 400 priests there.

Fr. Ed received a call concerning the Church’s “no guns allowed in church policy”. Fr. Ed explained that we abide by codes issued from the state of Illinois and there is a state law that prohibiting guns within a certain proximity to the school.

We are still finalizing the dates of the Lenten Parish Mission – it should be 3-4 nights in mid-late March. St. Raymond’s will probably host the mission in conjunction with St. Al’s, St. Emily’s, St. Thomas’s and St. Cecelia’s.

Campaign Update: We have reached \$1,890,000 so far and on track to raise 3 million. The average contribution has been \$11,000 and over 160 families have responded with a pledge of some amount. There will be an Open House on October 10th at 7:00 in the community room to hear more about the campaign and to recruit more volunteers for the remaining phases of the campaign; the phone-a- thon and sending letters. With the phone-a thon, we hope to reach at least 1000 families. The letters will be sent to every registered parishioner/family. The positive response we have received so far shows how strong St Raymond’s commitment is to our parish now and for the future.

Parish Update: The school’s enrollment is up to 523 students for 2017/2018 – which is an increase of 33 students from last year. Principal Mary Eileen received recognition from the Archdiocese for exceeding the targeted increase number for school enrollment.

After the parish count, which takes place in October, we will have an update on the numbers of participants for Sunday Mass.

We have performed over 100 Baptisms for the last couple of years.
Jim and Char Boss will receive the Christifideles Award this year.

We have a new business manager – Jack Schuch. He has worked in parishes for over 20 years as a business manager. He worked at St. Al's in Chicago and St. Alexander's in Palos Hills.

Fr. Ed and Fr. Gilbert have been working on the internal process of the parish along with the Jack Schuch. Our parish is financially stable right now and that is great.

RE is still being reevaluated. Right now, Fr. Ed, Fr. Gilbert, Mary Eileen, Michelle Tuchner and Agnes Knott are working together to come up with a great new program what will engage the parents and grandparents.

Good News/Bad News:

Good News: We have a new business manager

Fr. Gilbert is a great presence in the parish and school – he is greeting children before and after school on the sidewalk

Fr. Ed is doing a great job of bringing in great priests

Relevant Radio has chosen St. Raymond's as the parish of the week for our Rosary Makers ministry!! They will interview Fr. Ed, Evelyn and Ruth on the Patrick McCormick show live on October 14th from 11:30-12:00

Bad News: Gathering of Women still needs a chairperson for next year

Hospitality: Cumberland Bakery is our new donut provider. Dina Petricca researched and secured them. They will deliver the donuts. We are planning on having hospitality twice a month now – the second Sunday in conjunction with Newcomers Sunday and the fourth Sunday. The different ministries will host hospitality and use that time to educate about their ministry.

Fr. Gilbert: Fr. Gilbert wanted to know which ministry was responsible for the parish's spiritual life. October is the month of Mary and we need to be doing something special to honor that. He suggested the priest invite people to come to reconciliation or have a teaching mass where the priest will teach the people about the sacraments. We could hold a workshop for teachers and RE leaders to learn about the Rosary so they can teach the children.

Outreach Ministry: They are considering a parish toy collection for needy families from Mt. Prospect. They will either work with the MP Fire Department or with Our Lady of the Angels.

Youth Formation: The branches groups would like Fr. Ed and Fr. Gilbert to come to their meetings and teach them about the sacraments and learn more about their faith. It would also be a great way to get to know them better.

Open Comments: We have to make sure the door from the Jr. High wing to the PMC is locked for the security of the school. Also need to increase security at the front desk of the PMC – maybe have a sign in sheet before you go into the hallway.

We are still in need of an adult formation rep to serve on Parish Council. The youth formation is being reconstructed so until that is complete; we will not have a rep.

Closing Prayer: (Fr. Ed)

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Parish Council meets the first Monday of each month. Commission reports should be sent to Carl one week before that; by the last Monday of the previous month.

Next Meeting: November 6th

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Nuelle