Parish Council minutes 3/6/19

Present: Sam Ensley, Adam Freiburger, Carole Fuller, John Minick, Jay Nelson, Margaret Ryan, Dan Schneider, Mark Wissel, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Tom

1. **Prayer**
2. **New members**. Our council rotation will lead to three replacements in the spring. Fr. Tom will note this in the bulletin and will contact those who were willing but were not discerned onto the board last year. Anyone else who has ideas should ask the person if they are willing and then give contact information to Fr. Tom before our May meeting.
3. **Parish statistics**. We looked at the numbers of registered families, the number of baptisms and the number of funerals in our parish over the years. Registered families and baptisms reached a peak around 1990 and there has been a slow decrease since, though we have been pretty stable for the past ten years. There are two obvious explanations for the drop shared by every parish: a decrease in the number of children per family and a decrease in the number of people practicing their faith in our age. It is also easy to analyze that parishes with new housing are parishes that are growing. Parishes with older housing tend to decline as citywide population shifts. While we do not have much new housing, our parish is holding fairly steady and there is every reason to predict that it will remain a large parish for the foreseeable future. We need to do our best to attract and retain parishioners, and we need to keep an eye on these numbers as we plan.
4. **Information**
5. We have both male and female **young adult** small groups meeting during Lent for Bible study. After Lent we hope to open this, advertise, and grow in our young adult activity.
6. **Kingdom Builders**. MaryJo Parrish is beginning a monthly women’s Bible study at St. Charles.
7. ***Pueri Cantores*** The bishop will celebrate a Mass at St. Charles on March 25 with the musical accompaniment of grade school choirs across our diocese, singing classical liturgical music. The event is open by ticket only.
8. Catholic Charities is offering a **parenting seminar** on March 24 at 6:15.
9. **Lenten opportunities**: We are exposing the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration from 6:45-8:00 a.m. daily during Lent. Fr. Tom and Fr. Dennis are presenting a Lenten series of three talks. Stations of the Cross and Benediction will be held on Friday evenings, using new Stations booklets. A men’s morning of Reflection will be held on March 16.
10. We are talking about, but have not organized, another bus trip for **senior citizens**.

Next meeting: May 8, 7:00 p.m.