**Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 12th, 2022**

Attendees: Steve Bentz, Bob Current, Susie Hague, Linda Gutoskey, Joe McKenna, Chris Stock, Keith Heimann, Dan Schneider, Fr. Tom, Fr. Koehl

1. The winter covid spike is reducing school attendance as more quarantined students participate in video learning. Similarly, gymnasium church attendance is down approximately 1/3 for the first two weeks. Too soon to tell if this is the new normal.

2. Catholic Charities have teamed up with the Knights of Columbus and Carpenters Sons to rehab as many as 33 rooms at the Noll house facility close to Bishop Luers High School. This will be used as a transition house for refugees being settled in our area. There are 25 employers interested in hiring from this pool of candidates as they learn English and acclimate to the Midwest. Our Advent Giving Tree provided over $5,000 for the refugees, our parish office garage is filled with furniture, and Catholic Charities have been very appreciative of all our parish is doing.

3. Church renovations have finally begun. Pictures and updates are shared via the St. Charles website, Facebook and the pastor’s column in the weekly bulletin.

4. Oak boards have been removed from the back wall, the altar and ambo with plans to create new useful items for the parish.

5. Catholic Relief Service has an event in our parish office basement on January 19th from 6 – 8 pm to discuss further plans and course of action.

6. In preparation for a Synod in the Vatican, listening events are being held around the world to hear from Catholics in the pews. We are invited to Saint Vincent parish on February 5th at 1:00. Attendees will be split into groups and asked for feedback on a number of questions. Reponses from the diocese will be condensed and forwarded to Rome.

7. You can suggest topics for our annual Lenten series that is scheduled for the February 24, March 3, and March 10 in the Hession Center.

8. There is a wooden box on the big table in the Gathering Space titled “Letters to God”. People are invited to write to God whatever is in their hearts and place letters in the box. All paperwork will be burned periodically and not read by anybody. (A teenager presented the idea and supplied the box.)

9. On public holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving) we have only one Mass, at 9:00. We discussed moving that Mass to 8:15. We will try it assess the reaction.

10. The Rescue Mission has asked if they would like a visit to share ideas of how our parish can help their ministry. We will invite them to our next meeting.

The next parish council meeting is February 2nd at 7:00 pm