Parish Council minutes 1/13/21

Present: Fr. Tom, Fr. Thomas, Bob Current, Sam Ensley, Adam Freiburger, Carole Fuller, Susie Hague, Keith Heimann, Steve Lutz, Joe McKenna, John Minick, Margaret Ryan, Dan Schneider, Patty Sosenheimer

1. **Corona virus**.
2. Church. We have had roughly 6 Covid funerals. None of these caught the virus in our church. We haven’t heard any suspicions of a person catching it here. Vaccines are becoming more available, but it is very unclear when the danger will be past. Livestreaming is popular; we currently have around 100 computers tuned in on Sundays.
3. School. There have been lots of kids on quarantine and many positive cases, though none very severe. Kids would rather be in school than home. We are plugging away. Since we are back in a red zone, sports games will return to allowing only parents as spectators.
4. **OSV Increased Offertory program**. This program will begin in early February. The pastor gives a talk one weekend, a letter with brochure is mailed that same week. The following weekend we will have a lay witness at Mass and ask for Commitment cards. OSV organizes subsequent mailings with thank you letters and requests for those who haven’t turned in a commitment card. The diocese is paying ¾ of the cost of the program.
5. **Knights of Columbus fish fry**. The Advent fish fry was canceled.
6. **Seminarian livestream program**. Our seminarians produced a livestream Wednesday evening program during Advent. It was well received.
7. **Christmas card**. The parish sent a Christmas card to 100 families we identified who have been avoiding Mass because of the pandemic. It was well received.
8. **Christmas Masses** went well. We needed an overflow Mass in the gym at 4:00 on Christmas Eve but not at 6:30. There was some talk about moving the Midnight Mass to an earlier hour, but the time is important to many people and we will likely keep it for now.
9. **Ash Wednesday**. The diocese is going to give us directions about the placement of ashes on Ash Wednesday. We will follow those instructions.
10. **Tim Francis** is a nationally-known speaker who gives a high-energy presentation about Eucharistic miracles. He is coming to our parish the weekend of Feb. 28, giving a promotion at each weekend Mass and doing his presentation on Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30. He will give the same presentation the following evening at Our Lady of Good Hope. This is an effort to evangelize. We worry about the people who have become used to staying home on Sundays. Once the pandemic is over, we expect that we will have lost some.
11. **Fr. Drew Curry** is preparing a series of three evenings of Evangelization and has offered it in our parish. We will schedule this after the Feb. 28 event.
12. **Cross Catholic Outreach** will look for support for third world ministries the weekend of 5/16/21
13. **Borromeo Bash** has been rescheduled for June 4.
14. **School renovation**. We have carved one small classroom from the teacher’s lounge and another is being formed from a storage area in the Hession Center basement, next to the band room. We are gaining two extra classrooms at a far lower cost than adding on to the building.
15. **Church renovation**. We have an estimate of $1.6 million for the project. A capital campaign will have to wait until six months after the Offertory Increase program, but we are guessing that we won’t need a full-blown campaign. We would like to present the project to the parish this winter and be ready for construction next winter. A fundraising expert from OSV is going to advise us, but we think we might not need a full-blown capital campaign.

Next meeting: February 3, 7 p.m.