



Parish Council Minutes

January 4, 2022 (via ZOOM!)

Attending: Fr. John Firpo, Linda Caliguiri, Elizabeth Cilano, Lisa Coon, Jerry Streb, Jim Peters, Mark Stechsulte, Ken Whitney, Jr.

In absentia: Gina Reeder, Gina Mussumeci, Kathleen Tkac

1. Opening prayer: Mark Stechsulte
2. Acceptance of Minutes - accepted as submitted
3. Report from Fr. John
 - A) Updates from 1/3/22 Finance Council meeting
 - Finance Council reported that the parish continues to be financially stable when they look at all our accounts including investments.
 - Regarding weekly collection: currently shows \$13,000 shortfall, but this number fluctuates from week to week (although electronic giving is helping to keep this somewhat more stable).
 - CMA goal of \$99,607 was met and current pledges total \$110,000. Of the amount pledged, \$96,000 has already been collected. St. Charles keeps 50% of any overage.
 - Maintenance projects include replacing the gym doors and improving the air conditioning in the church. Regarding the latter, a new compressor would be costly; other options are being investigated as well. Additionally, new LED signage is being finalized. There will be 2 signs (similar to the one at Mother of Sorrows) - one on the Maiden Lane side, one on the Dewey Ave side. Wires need to be run to those locations. Hopefully they will be up and running by Easter. Lastly, the Youth Ministry room has been renovated by parish volunteers, our maintenance staff, and Tyler Davis, our Youth Minister.
 - B) Amanuel Malik has been hired as the new Faith Formation Director for St. Charles and Holy Cross, to assume the position since Mary Toot will be retiring at the end of January.
 - C) Regarding mass attendance, the weekly in-person attendance has been increasing, averaging 500-550 per weekend. There is an average of 120 viewers of the weekend mass streaming/recording. Further, during the past year, St. Charles mass recordings have drawn over 60,000 viewers. This is a true ministry for St. Charles.
 - D) Lee Ventrella is doing a fine job organizing our home visitation ministry. Following all covid protocols, volunteers are once again bringing Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners. Homebound parishioners also receive our weekly bulletin. When visitation isn't possible, phone calls are made to keep in touch.

4. Parish Council Guidelines - all comments were positive. Guidelines accepted as written. Jim will correct a few typos and distribute the final copy to council members. Fr. John is grateful for lay leadership running Parish Council meetings. Parishioners at large may add items to PC agenda via Fr. John or any Council member. It was determined that Parish Council minutes will be posted to the St. Charles website once they have been approved by Council leadership and Fr. John. Approved minutes will be sent to our parish secretary for posting to the website.
5. Synod - Council members are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming Synod Information Sessions. The 'nuts and bolts' of the Synod process will be outlined in these sessions. Zoom links for various meeting dates are available. St. Charles is part of the Monroe Central Deanery - that meeting will take place **1/18/22** (*note new date*) at 1:30PM. A discussion followed regarding hopes/goals for the Synod - including reaching people who no longer attend mass, meeting the needs of our youth, young people and seniors. Other questions involve whether our liturgies meet spiritual needs and how we can reach out to the wider community. Fr. John hopes to use existing groups as a starting point (Kof C. lectors, etc.). Honest, open, compassionate dialog will hopefully result in a spirit of openness and an opportunity for growth.
6. Closing

Next Meeting: March 15, 2022

Suggested agenda items

1. Synod - especially with regard to reporting on Deanery Meetings
2. Ideas for future month's Strength in Numbers prayers

Submitted by Elizabeth Cilano