

Parish Council Meeting 1/23/17

Members present: Denise Haechrel, Lil Wawra, Susan Wieneke, Roger Litchy, Tom Hudinsky, Ann Novotny, Elaine Kramer, and Don Felix. Not present: Father Gallas, Deacon Nevin and Judy Bermel.

Susan opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:04pm.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Elaine and approved as read.

1. We discussed Familia "Temperament study" starting in February. Encouraged council members to extend personal invitation to young moms.
2. Lectio Divina intentional prayer workshop – Encouraged council members to extend personal invitation. Vision: workshop attendee's would feel equipped to facilitate small groups at St. Thomas. Multiple small groups would form, could be 15 minutes before or after mass, coffee in the morning, donuts after mass, etc.
3. We discussed doing the rosary before Mass. People like to have a little personal time without the rosary, also. The rosary could be finished 5-10 minutes before Mass starts.
4. We discussed inviting parishioners to parish events. It was noted that people want a personal invitation to be involved in meetings or groups.
5. The Fatima shrine here at St. Thomas may be something that is seasonal, temporary or movable, because of the possibility of a new worship space being built in the future. Susan will ask Father what Sts. Peter and Paul is doing about a shrine.
6. We have a list of people who donated by check when visiting. Ann will write a "thank you" note to those who contributed to welcome them.
7. We discussed moving the Sunday donuts to the church basement, especially in the winter. Several objections were voiced, including getting the elderly downstairs, moving all the coffeemakers, trays, milk, juice, etc. to the basement. Many of us favored the space in the parish center hall. We discussed doing a pre Mass greeting time to welcome visitors and parishioners as a time to introduce yourself and invite people over after Mass for donuts. Susan will also try to come up with some donut table "ice breakers" to give opportunities to mix it up at donuts.
8. We discussed the former Welcome Committee that Ann used to be on. Can we resurrect the Time and Talent form? If they sign up, there needs to be a follow up to get people involved in the events that they indicate.
9. Susan has a list of current parishioners. She would like each council member to call a page full of people to get email address, introduce ourselves, let them know we have a website and ask if they want our flocknote. Ann will write a script for us to follow.
10. Recommendation to upgrade our website design to communicate our parish message and link to social media sites. Review content and links to ensure all events and groups are featured. Get ideas by reviewing other parish websites.
11. Random discussion – why don't we have a fish fry or Lenten dinner? It could be a good fundraiser and parish event.
12. Discussed calendar process, and how to ensure event conflicts are avoided. Process: send parish office your group calendar for the full year to reserve dates. Check website calendar to ensure all events are listed.

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13. Elaine also mentioned that people had asked her why the financial statement was no longer in the bulletin. Our trustees stated that our policy now is that it is available through the office.
14. We are looking for parish festival vice chair suggestions. It would involve a few meetings before the festival and lots of help from the committee chairs.
15. Our next meeting will be Feb. 27th.

Susan closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:30pm