

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Freedom, Pa. 17349
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Date: April 19, 2022

Attendance **Present:** Father Mark Wilke, Sister Jane Keller, Bo Gifford, Mary Glass, Dennis Sarpen, Susan Mareck, Janice Elsen, Diana Morrison(late) and Karla Coombes
Absent: Deacon Fred Horn, Barbara Bittner
Excused: Father Josh Cavender, Gary Grant

The meeting was opened by Dennis Sarpen at 7:03 pm

Opening Prayer: Offered by Father Wilke

Review of Minutes: Motion by Bo Gifford, seconded by Susan Mareck to accept the February 15, 2022 minutes as submitted. Discussion: None
Vote: All in Favor; No Opposed. Motion carried.

PARISH REPORT/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Father Wilke

Father stated that bids were sent for the interior repair of the church and parking lot repairs. Bids are due back by May.

Diocesan approval has been received to generate funds and proceed with the repair/beautification of the parish campus. As we get further along, more information will be available. Some comments from the larger community requested in-depth feedback and input to maintain transparency.

In the next few weeks, we will be bringing on a parish manager to assist with facilitating parish affairs. Randy Mentzell is in the process of completing all paperwork and upon approval will start around May.

Dennis Sarpen inquired as to the interior repairs of the church.

Father Wilke responded that the carpet would be replaced along with re-upholstering of the kneelers and seats, painting the walls and a lighting and sound system review.

Father also stated that in addition as time and funds permit, the atrium would be looked at along with the front doors for improvements in regard to access and safety. This would include a panic bar installation and changing from 8 doors to 6 so that the doors could be made wider to accommodate wheelchairs. A life safety evaluation has recommended these changes for accessibility and safety. While we are in compliance with regulations being grand-fathered in, the new regulations require certain changes.

The parking lots need to be resurfaced and we will lose some lawn in front of the portico so that we can add handicapped spaces.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT: Susan Mareck

1. Teacher positions/aids availability – we have 5 openings
2. Ukraine collection from school - \$500
3. 376 Cereal boxes were collected for the April Mission day
4. 3 of our students represented our school at the York County Choral Performance on April 9th at Dover Area HS.
5. 3rd graders - We have 6 third graders that are studying to compete in the York County environthon in May
6. We are again able to do Field trips this year so our students will be going to the following places:
 - a. K – Bee presentation at our school
 - b. 1st & 2nd - Hershey Zoo
 - c. 3rd: Indian Echo cavern
 - d. 4th, 5th & 6th: Gettysburg and a National Park trip to the Susquehanna River
 - e. 5th & 6th : Biztown in York
7. We again are able to have our yearly Spring Choral and Band concerts this year!

Dennis Sarpen asked what the teacher qualifications required.

Sue Mareck stated than an elementary degree was needed by all.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT: Sister Jane Keller

1. Continued gratitude to all our generous Catechists and Aides who assist with Rel. Ed. Recruitment for our 2022-2023 is in process.
2. Religious Ed Registration is open for 2022-2023. Forms are available on our website and at the bookrack outside the Parish Office.
3. Level I and Level II Good Shepherd Formation classes will take place in June and July for new Catechists. Our Good Shepherd Catechesis provides the basis for Faith Formation and Sacramental Prep.
4. Religious Ed calendaring for 2022-2023 is in process.
5. Retreat days were observed for all those preparing for Sacrament during the Easter season.
6. Three Scrutinies were observed with our RCIA "Elect" (Those preparing for Baptism at our Easter Vigil). Bishop Gainer was able to celebrate the first of these scrutinies with us. Bishop then personally addressed all our RCIA candidates after Mass during their RCIA Class.
7. We are blessed as a Parish Community to have had 7 Candidates for Baptism at our Easter Vigil. We also welcomed 9 additional Candidates for Confirmation and First Eucharist.
8. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sat. April 23rd here at St. John's. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sat. May 7th.
9. All students in both our school and Rel. Ed were encouraged throughout Lent to participate in the Parish Lenten program, translating their sacrifices into monetary alms to be shared. To date their sacrifice coins amounted to 600.00
10. Rel. Ed continues to join with the school in support of all fundraisers, spirit nights, programs and projects whenever possible.
11. Our Rel. Ed Staff works together with the school in setting guidelines for the safety and well-being of all our students.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT: Father Wilke

Chris Wood has accepted a full-time position at St. Josephs, York. His assistants, Kim and Bob will step forward and with Father Josh will continue the program. Chris has plans through the year and is close enough to offer assistance.

The Teen Disciple program will continue and we had about 17 attend the last meeting.

As always volunteers are always needed and welcome.

EVANGILIZATION COMMITTEE: Barbara Bittner

No report

PASTOR'S REPORT AND COMMENTS: Father Wilke

Lenten Season went well with all parish events well attended with good feedback. Sister Jane commented that the Penance Service was well received and well attended.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Karla Coombes**LOANS**

Balance on Education Building Loan as of 1/31/22 is \$0

Balance on 2019 YE Deficit Loan as of 1/31/22 is \$0

Total loan debt \$0

*** However, as I advance paid on the loans in July in anticipation of receiving funds through the monthly Debt Reduction envelopes, I am still \$7,435.84 short of covering that advanced payment of \$54,000.*

CASH BALANCE

Estimated Gift of Cash Balance as of 4/19/22: Positive cash balance of \$364,611.37

Because of the 2nd SBA PPP loan that was received back in March of 2021 in the amount of \$239,690. as well as some of the 1st PPP loan from 2020 and a large bequest the balance is still in good shape even after paying off the two loans (\$138,937.98 and \$50,966.71) and the DAC shortfall for 2021 (\$56,026.42) in January 2022.

UNDESIGNATED SAVINGS

Parish General Savings as of 3/31/2022: \$55,240.00

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC 2022) AS OF 4/19/2022

- Goal for 2022/23 - \$195,977 (an increase of \$3,974)
- The actual payment collected are \$77,720.
- Outstanding pledges are \$12,605.
- Right now we are \$118,247 short of the goal, but if we are able to collect the outstanding pledges we will still be \$105,652 short of the goal.
- I have budgeted \$60,000 shortfall for next year. I arrived at the number by adding the new increase to the shortfall for last year.

VANCO

Enrollment is up to 157 participants which is an increase of 23 since last meeting. With average weekly collection for the first 2 weeks of April of \$7,135.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Council

Dennis Sarpen informed the council that Anthony Carlton is resigning from the Council. He and his wife are expecting baby #5 and he is no longer able to work from home virtually.

Father Wilke offered to have a presentation at the May meeting on the Diocesan View of Parish Council and our church expectation. All felt this was a great idea and a needed exercise.

Bo Gifford reported that the K of C held a “drive” at Walmart on 4/19 which netted \$865.00 in cash, 1424 pounds of food and a large supply of clothing. He hopes to have the next drive around Thanksgiving.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2022

Closing Prayer by Father Wilke

Meeting closed by Dennis Sarpen at 7:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Mary Glass