

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

Date: February 15, 2022

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

The meeting was opened by Dennis Sarpen at 7:05 pm

Opening Prayer: Offered by Father Wilke

Review of Minutes: Motion by Susan Mareck, seconded by Bo Gifford to accept the January 18, 2022 minutes as submitted. Discussion: None
Vote: All in Favor; No Opposed. Motion carried.

PARISH REPORT/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Father Wilke

Feasibility Study – Forms are being submitted and appointments for in-person comments are being scheduled. Tabulations will be compiled to an executive summary. There will be two “town hall” type meetings to inform parishioners of the final results. These will be held in Capitani Hall on February 27, 2022 at 2:00 pm and February 28, 2022 at 6:30 pm. It is hoped the study will bring any problems to the forefront as well as enable us to make prudent decisions regarding our future. As of this moment, Father doesn’t have any specific return numbers.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT: Susan Mareck

Registration is going well; we have 19 sixth graders graduating and 5 or 6 Students not returning. Current enrollment is 127. As of this date we have 112 registered not counting pre-school. First grade is filled.

Pre-school registration will start on 2/22/22. It seems as though families are beginning to return this month as we added 3 new pre-schoolers.

We have fire drills on a regular basis and weather permitting a red drill which is a lock-down drill. In this drill, we leave the school and go to the church. The entire School has done very well with both these safety drills. In the event we would have to evacuate the entire campus we have an agreement to go to St. John's Lutheran Church which can be reached by walking. We have one teacher who attended emergency training at the diocese. [K. Coombes mentioned that last year an evacuation of the school was necessary due to a gas leak and evacuation was done timely even with bad weather.](#)

This is "Dental Month" and the children will be donating toothbrushes and toothpaste which will be given to the Food Pantry. [Gary Grant thanked Sue In advance for the donations.](#)

Gary Grant also asked Sue if the school could use any laptops as he was looking to dispose of them. Sue said they would be happy to have them for use by specialty program teachers.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT: Sister Jane Keller

1. Continued gratitude to our generous Catechists and Aides who assist with Rel. Ed.
2. Our Good Shepherd Catechesis provides the basis for our Faith Formation and Sacramental Prep. Both level I and Level II Formation classes are calendared for Spring and Summer 2022 for new Catechists.
3. Family Prayer sessions are held in conjunction with Mass attendance on Sundays. Grade 2 families met on Sunday, Feb. 13th and Grade 1 Families will do so on Sun. Feb. 27th.

4. First Reconciliation will be celebrated with our Grade 2 students and their Families on Saturday, March 5th.
5. RCIA and RCIC candidates will celebrate the Rite of Sending and Call to Repentance on Sunday, March 6th. Later in the day, our Catechumens will meet in Harrisburg for the Rite of Election with Bishop Gainer.
6. Confirmation Retreat Days are scheduled for York Catholic and Rel. Ed. Candidates and their Sponsors. Grade 7 – Sat, March 19th Grade 8 – Sat. April 2
7. Sacrament Prep Retreat Days are scheduled for:
Grade 1 – Sat. Mar. 26th Grade 2 – Sat. April 30th
8. Confirmation is scheduled to be celebrated on Sat. April 23rd here at St. John's. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sat. May 7th.
9. Lenten reflection materials and activities have been purchased for students and their families to encourage and support the Domestic Church throughout the upcoming Lenten season.
10. Our Spring Fundraisers are underway. Both the "Braided Bread" and Gertrude Hawk order forms are available at our bookrack at the parish Office, for all to participate.
11. VBS is tentatively scheduled for June 19th -23rd, 2022 to be hosted here at St. John's.
12. Rel. Ed continues to join with the school in support of all fundraisers, spirit nights, programs and projects whenever possible.
13. 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: Chris Wood (1/11/22)

No report

EVANGILIZATION COMMITTEE: Barbara Bittner

No report

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 is \$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 \$15,490.09 short of covering that advanced payment of \$54,000.

CASH BALANCE

Estimated G/F Cash Balance as of 2/15/22: Positive cash balance of \$396,271.79

Because of the 2nd SBA PPP loan that was received back on March 2nd in the amount of \$239,690. as well as some of the 1st SBA PPP loan and a few recent very large bequests, 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).

UNDESIGNATED SAVINGS

Parish General Savings a of 1/31/2022: \$55,106.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC 2021) AS OF 1/31/22:

- Goal for 2021/22 is the same as 2020/21 - \$192,003.
- The actual payments collected were \$138,916.59
- We were \$56,026.42 short of the goal
- I had budgeted a shortfall of \$71,184.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC 2022) AS OF 2/15/2022:

- Goal for 2022/23 - \$195,977 (an increase of \$3,974)
- The actual payments collected are \$1,100.
- We do not have any pledge data yet
- I have not created and budgeted shortfall for next year yet

VANCO:

- Enrollment is up to 134 participants which is an increase of 19 since last month
- With average weekly collection for the first 2 weeks of February at \$6,301.

PASTOR'S REPORT AND COMMENTS: Father Wilke

The Bishop will be visiting our parish on March 20, 2022 and will be available for the 9 and 11 Masses.

Father noted Karla's in-depth financial report and our strong cash position. The Finance Committee had recommended the pay-off of the debts to save interest. We hope to continue in this positive frame as we maintain our plant and look to the future.

DAC – kick off in Lent at which time we will be doing the presentations and distributing envelopes. Both evangelical and administrative benefits are being utilized.

The pre-confirmation interviews with the school and religious ed were started with approximately 50 students. There was discussion of the various comments by the students and Father said the “nervous feelings” were obvious. Father will return in March to recap with the students because some were “overwhelmed”. Student letters will be addressed to the Bishop, but will be perused by Father Wilke prior to sending them on to the Diocese. Bishop Gainer has set 14 weeks (Lent & Easter) when confirmation can be scheduled; he has delegated his pastors to confer this sacrament. At St John the Baptist, Confirmation is scheduled for 4/23/22 to be conferred by Father Wilke.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Council

Diana Morrison asked if Father had time to look at Eucharistic Holy Hour; he will get back to her.

St. John's will have a parish penance service on Palm Sunday evening from 4 to 7 pm with several visiting priests in attendance.

Ash Wednesday will be 9 am Mass with ashes; 12 Noon Prayer Service with ashes and a 7 pm Mass with ashes and all services will be in the main Church. Stations will also be held during Lent.

Question was raised in regard to the Synod. Father and Deacon Carl Freidhoff will be meeting for planning – Goal is to schedule for end of March.

Bo Gifford stated that the K of C will be removing wreaths from the cemetery so that they can be recycled. He also stated the K of C will be doing the Lenten Dinners on 3/4, 3/18 and 4/1 from 4 to 7 pm. A food drive is also scheduled for Walmart on 4/9

Next Meeting: March 15, 2022

Closing Prayer by Father Wilke

Meeting closed by Dennis Sarpen at 7:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Mary Glass