

# Parish Council Minutes

January 15, 2022

**Attendees:** Gladys Acevedo, Kathy Champignon, Irene Gyori, Msgr. Kerrigan, Nolberto Lan, Jacek Malik, Ana Valencia

## **Announcements**

We are very sad to say goodbye to Luz Helena. Her work at the Diocese has been too time consuming for her to continue on the Council but we welcome our new member, Nolberto Len to the Parish Council.

The Omicron variant is causing high numbers of cases and a heightened level of anxiety in the Parish. This has also led to a lower attendance at Mass. The clergy is monitoring the Oxygen Dioxide levels in the church from a monitor at the altar. If it is too high the fans will be turned on and the doors opened. If the numbers continue to rise, the Mass will be expedited.

## **Finance Info – Facilities**

The 2021 final numbers are not in yet. It looks like the Christmas collections are less than the year before.

The Commemorative Pavers as a fund raiser are going well. We currently have orders for 27 pavers. We will continue to take orders for a couple more weeks. With those orders the current pavers can be installed. After that we will continue to take orders but hold onto them until we have enough to afford having them put in. \$75 from each paver goes towards the new walkway. We also received a donation of \$1,000. The walkway was \$7,000.

We have alerted the Diocese of problems with the church roof. We have gotten one estimate of \$81,000 to take care of it, and we are in the process of receiving two more estimates. We have asked to sell the Rectory and build a small 2-story structure on the church grounds. The first floor would be for gathering space and the second floor would be living quarters for the priest/s.

Doing something about the Annex building and the cemetery are off on the horizon.

## **NeXt Level Project**

Ana gave an update on progress. They are meeting regularly every other week. The kids are eager to get started on a project but Covid issues are stopping everything. Valeria Morales, a NeXt Level mentor, will be setting up an offshoot project, Women's Justice Circle. This will be made up of low-income women from Bound Brook who want to work on Social Justice projects with action as a goal.

## **Family Faith Formation**

It is set to start on Sunday, January 23. We have approximately 96 families signed up for one of 4 sessions. The program runs 12 months a year. The program is based on a 7-year cycle with a different theme each year. The theme for this year is prayer.

## **Upcoming Events**

Feasts of St. Joseph – March 19 and May 1.

For the feast day of St. Joseph in March we will have activities Friday and Saturday. Friday vigil, 6:00 PM Mass and at 7:00 PM we will have a 1-man play, “Merton and Me” in the church.

Saturday the plan is to have a 10:00 AM Bilingual Mass. Fr. Charlie O’Connor, former pastor, will join us to celebrate Mass. The plan will be to have a breakfast afterwards.

We will set up a tiered altar similar to what we had last year with candles, breads and such. Gladys has agreed to take the lead.

May 1 – Feast of St. Joseph the Worker will close our Year of St. Joseph. There will be a special 6:00 PM Mass. The 12 parishioners that have been working towards consecration to St. Joseph will be wearing special “worker” outfits.

We hope to be able to have an outdoor picnic that afternoon around 4:00 PM. Maybe families could bring food. We can reach out to the Divine Mercy, Charismatics and Hospitality groups to see if they can help.

Hopefully, we could have music.

Ash Wednesday March 2.

## **General Discussion**

Nolberto shared his worry about the breakdown of families in the Parish and their journey in their faith. He believes Family Faith Formation will go a long way in helping with that. Personally, he is putting together a booklet about how important family is. He wants to help families in our community however he can. He will share his booklet draft with the Council for support. Perhaps he could give a talk at a FFF session.

Next meeting **Saturday, February 12, 2021**, at 8:30 via Zoom.

Kathy Champignon