

St. Michael's Newark NY Parish Council Meeting Minutes

December 7th, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Present: Bob Hegeman, Lynne Poiesz, Father Sierotowicz, Gina Donnelly, Gina Porter, Peg Hartman, Gayle Addyman, Sue Joslyn, Isabella Humphrey and Braydan Sherman, June Sherman, Chris Taylor

Excused: Father Merritt, Henry Banker, Carmella Owen

Opening Prayer Braydan Sherman at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to approve November minutes made by Lynne Poiesz seconded by Peg Hartman. Approved and will be emailed as "Final."

Father's Updates

Father brought a beautiful statue of Christ the King from Poland which he is giving to the church to be put in the area where the former tabernacle was. It was quite the adventure to get it here undamaged. It was suggested that he share the story of how he got it here with the parish, either from the pulpit or have Carmella share it.

Father shared that we need two people from Parish Council and two from the Finance Council to be on a committee with the rest of the cluster to look toward the future. They would be looking at a five year plan for the cluster. They will make recommendations and work with the diocese on decisions about the future of the cluster. Gina Donnelly and Gayle Addyman have volunteered to be the Parish Council representatives.

Tentative Christmas masses are in the bulletin.

Outside Nativity is being used but the plexiglass is unfortunately broken. Plexiglass will be ordered for next year.

Old Business:

Van ministry has had about the same number of people each week.

So far no one has contacted Chris Taylor or the rectory to participate in the outdoor Christmas decoration competition.

- Parish Council renovations

Holy water dispensers will be donated by Bob Hegeman in honor of his wife Martha. Council members had selected dispensers, but purchasing was postponed after a recommendation from Mary Capone to wait. She wants us to select other dispensers that will fit in better with the church décor.

The team is still hopeful that we will be able to return for the Christmas masses.

The idea to purchase stars has been side-tabled, it was not getting a positive response. There may be fundraising for pews. Details to come, but it will not include people having any connection to specific pews.

New lighting will be coming in January for the rest of the church. They are considering installing lighting for the Stations of the Cross.

The area behind the alter will not be completed by Christmas, but it will be completed enough for Christmas. When the renovation is complete, it will be raised approximately 32 inches. The architect drawings were shared as to the changes that will eventually occur.

The baptismal fount will be moved over to the side where the piano was.

The pews were put back in, and dusting needs to be done. There will be some professional cleaning, but parishioners will be asked to volunteer (possibly the Rosary Altar Society) to clean more thoroughly before Christmas.(or the opening).

New Business:

Bob requested that we all think, pray and bring ideas on how to get people to come back to church. The following ideas were brought to the meeting.

Open House

Concert

Choir

Cake wheel

Raffle and prizes.

Collection of writings by parishioners (historical anthology of St. Michaels)

Reunion of St. Michael's School Alumni

Get to know your priest night

Faith Formation for adults

Bible study classes

Make the Church hall more welcoming

Dinners

Youth Gatherings

Young adults (20-30 year old) gatherings

Book circle/small group discussions

Children's area in the church

Expand our music ministry

Invite people in to see and hear about the renovations

We need to be more vibrant/visible in the community

Personally, invite people to mass that have fallen away

Social activities for the youth (Bowling, movies...)-Youth representatives liked this idea

There was much discussion as to why people have stopped coming to church.

Unfortunately, some of the issues are with the Catholic Church and not specifically with St. Michaels church. These are difficult and complicated issues that we will need to continue to pray on and discuss in the future.

Closing Prayer- Sue Joslyn

Next Meeting: January 4th @ 6:30

Opening Prayer- Peg Hartman

Closing Prayer- Gayle Addyman