

St. Michael's Newark NY Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2022

6:30 PM

Present: Bob Hegeman, Gayle Addyman, Peg Hartman, Sue Joslyn, Henry Banker, Fr. Sierotowicz, Carmella Owen, Chris Taylor, June Sherman, Braydan Sherman, Lynn Poiesz, Isabella Humphrey, and Gina Porter by telephone.

Excused: Fr. Merritt, Gina Porter (submitted resignation)

Opening prayer – Bob Hegeman at 6:30 PM

Motion to approve the January Minutes made by Gayle Addyman and seconded by Lynne Poiesz

Father's Updates –

- He attended the Zoom meeting for the Synod. He passed around the questionnaire from the website and encouraged people to review, complete and submit the questionnaire.
- Van – Fr. suggested that the Parish Council members use the van to attend the Chrism Mass on Tuesday (Holy Week) 4/12 @ 7 PM. The van can hold up to 10 people including the driver. Parish Council members signed up, just about filling the van. Bob Hegeman will drive and he anticipates leaving the church by 5 PM as June suggested getting to the Cathedral at least an hour early due to parking and finding a seat inside.
- Deacon returned from leave of absence and will now be retired, however, he will still preach at some Masses.

Old Business –

- Cleaning Group for the church – Carmella was in contact with Pauline DeCann and she is willing to coordinate, however, she expressed some concerns as those who have been doing the cleaning are “not getting any younger.” There was discussion about having families sign up, as was suggested by Fr. Sierotowicz as well as others. Ideally, it would be great to have weekly cleaning of the church, but to get things started, monthly cleanings would be helpful. Carmella has a list of those who had helped with cleaning before the renovations. All agreed that a solid commitment is needed from those who volunteer. Also discussed Margaret, who cleans the Parish Center as she offered to clean the church, but there will be a fee. All agreed that a checklist will be helpful for those who will volunteer and where to find the cleaning supplies, etc. Things that will need to be done include, vacuuming, dusting and then the windows and doors on occasion. An announcement will be made asking for volunteers. Carmella to check with Pauline for the procedure on what needs to be cleaned, etc. A deep cleaning will need to be done in advance of holidays.
- Renovation Updates – Bob attended a meeting earlier today and they expect most of the new lighting to be in, however, installation will not take place until everything is in. They also plan to re-do the dimmer system. They did a walk-thru today to point out renovation issues including a cross that was put in the wrong place for one of the stations and paint touch-ups. The elevator

is waiting for the inspection. The state first must sign off then it will be inspected by the village. There is currently a phone in the new elevator that we do not need so it will need to be removed before the state signs off and the village inspects it.

New Business:

- Food Pantry – Bob sent out an email to Parish Council regarding the request from the Newark Food Closet (email included the following information – they would like a free-standing food pantry outside our church for people in the community to donate food that would be open to the community who need some extra help with food. The Food Closet staff will keep food in the stand, keep it organized and advertise to the community when it is low). There was a discussion about the free-standing food pantry that included who might be able to build one (possible Eagle Scout project), where to have it placed on the property, any possible liability to the Parish, concerns regarding vandalism, is a permit needed (no). June will check with the Diocese. It was pointed out that the other free-standing food pantries in other towns (Macedon and Palmyra) have not reported any issues. Also, regarding concerns with individuals on and off church property, there have been no problems with the St. Pauly clothing box. Bob advised that the Food Closet received a grant for this project, and they are hoping to get one in every town in the county.
- Kneelers redone – Carmella advised that it was discussed at the recent Finance Council meeting, and she checked around and one company out of Canandaigua is willing to take on the job and have quoted \$8,000.00 - \$10,000.00 to put new padding and covers on the 122 kneelers that are in the church. They will do 50 kneelers at a time. They will be using highly durable foam and vinyl, no cloth. Mary Capone to get the final approval from the Diocese. If we take the kneelers apart and then reinstall ourselves once they are done, it will save approximately \$2,000.00. Colors have been looked at and they are looking at “dune” or “tan” as they will compliment the color of the floors.
- Rugs for the Sanctuary – Carmella stopped by the Oriental Rug store in Victor, and she got 2 samples, however, one was rejected due to there being too much white. The other sample has some blue. New rugs for the Sanctuary are needed as what is there is not acceptable. Carmella advised that the “Color Committee” will be meeting to decide on colors for the kneelers and rugs.
- Pew cushions – There was discussion about pew cushions and there was concern with people perspiring in warm weather (we do not, nor will we be getting air conditioning for the church) and the inability to clean the pew cushions properly/adequately. June pointed out that St. Michael’s in Lyons does have pew cushions, but they have air conditioning. There was a suggestion that people can bring their own cushions, however, they would not be able to leave them in church.
- St. Joseph’s Bread – Everyone agreed that it went over well last year, and we should do it again this year. After discussing it further, we decided to purchase 150 loaves this year. We

purchased 100 last year and it was during COVID. Gina Donnelly agreed to place the order approximately 2 weeks in advance. We will hand out the bread on Sunday, March 20th.

- New Sign – For out in front of church. Discussion regarding what type of sign. There was agreement that we should not get a lighted sign like what is in front of the American Legion. We would like to be able to use it to advertise church events and is something that it easy to edit. We need to stay traditional and with larger letters to make it easier to read.
- Chairs cleaned and reupholstered – The Finance Council will look at having the chairs, at a minimum, cleaned or reupholstered after the kneelers have been completed. This is on hold for now.
- Parish Picnic – interest? Chairperson? – There was lots of discussion regarding a Parish Picnic in June and/or in September for the Feast of St. Michael. We would do the annual Cash Raffle with the drawing to be held at the picnic. The Feast Day is on Thursday, 9/29/22 and there was some concern that it may conflict with set-up for the rummage sale. After reviewing the calendar, it was determined that actual set-up will not begin until the weekend following the 29th. Renata Dewa is looking at doing our own tickets and Bob pointed out that we are required to have the tickets numbered. We discussed the lack of volunteers to coordinate and organize the events, especially if we have one in June and September. June pointed out that it can't always be Parish Council and staff doing the events and all agreed. There was discussion about having a chicken BBQ catered with attendees purchasing their own tickets by pre-order. This would not be a fundraiser; it would be at cost. All decided to have a picnic in June with the raffle as well as a picnic in September. An announcement will be made in the next few weeks and if no volunteers come forward, then we will need to reconsider.
- Staff and Parish Council trip – There were suggestions for a Parish Council trip including Abbey of the Genesee and the Basilica in Buffalo. There was mention of Anthony Road Winery as each month they have a dinner with a wine paring. All agreed we need to plan an event to include our youth members.
- Holy Water dispensers – Bob advised that he was recently in Lake Placid and attended church there and they were using the holy water fonts. June stated that they are in a different Diocese and Bob stated that he believes that St. John of Rochester is also using holy water and Carmella confirmed as she has been there.
- Other new business – Isabella referred to the discussion regarding church cleaning and she is willing to help and is certain she can get her friends to help as well so she will talk with them.

Closing prayer- Isabella

Next meeting – 3/1/22 @ 6:30

Opening prayer – Gina P

Closing prayer – Chris T