

St. George Parish Council Meeting Minutes
St. George CLC
January 17, 2023 7:00pm

Chris Schomaker called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Silent roll was taken and the following members were present: Chris Schomaker (Chairperson), Fr. Steven Beatty, Deacon John Mote, Joyce Schomaker, Judy Winkeler, Janice Wiegmann, Dana Woods, Kassie Hund, Joyce Marshall (guest).

Fr. Beatty opened the meeting with prayer.

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. One correction was made regarding the type of bingo at St. Mary otherwise minutes were approved by Joyce Schomaker and 2nd by Kassie Hund.

Commission Reports

Finance/Building & Grounds: Report was given by Joyce Marshall – the account has \$189K currently and ahead of budget because the picnic went so well but more expenses coming; The chicken dinner and raffle made ~\$7K; Life Teen not going to host the fish fry which is within two weeks of the chicken dinner; Anne is asking to use the freezer in the CLC for personal-okayed; Tom Wolfslau will continue picking up debris around grounds; Larry is looking into programable thermostats and parking lot lights; Stewardship pitch after 99 class; Looking at Fr. Beatty's salary which is split between St. George and St. Mary for Administrative service; Sharing Life Teen expenses; TVs for classrooms purchased ~\$3K but not installed yet; Roll top desk no room for and trying to decide where to keep; Looking into CD rates to make more money; John asked if cleaning building each month instead of paying a company whose rates went up to \$550/month which does not include the rectory; John asked about discontinuing the spotlight on the steeple; Someone asked about the large conference room table that was in the meeting room – it was discarded because it was beyond repair.

Christian Formation & Education: Report given by Chris via email from Colleen Kunz – November 16 was First Reconciliation, 26 students between the two parishes participated and Stephanie Haar did an amazing job with the program; Faith Formation t-shirts have been distributed, special thanks to Jamie Wyms for organizing the sale; The Christmas Program was a huge success, it was wonderful to see the church so full and the students really seemed to enjoy themselves; Both Trenton and New Baden Knights of Columbus have been announcing the winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest and they will pass out awards at the beginning of PSR on January 8; PSR resumes on January 8; All the technology has been purchased for the classrooms – huge thanks to Kassie Hund, now we just need everything up and running; Confirmation prep is continuing as Dana Wolfslau has scheduled a retreat for February 25 and she was able to get the retreat for free this year which is a huge savings for both parishes; Colleen Kunz is taking a month off since she just had a baby and Christine Wheeler/Pat Rhitzheimer will be in the Faith Formation office during PSR and Stephanie Haar will continue to help managing the program.

Evangelization & Hospitality Outreach: Report given by Joyce Schomaker – the 99 class program was well attended; asked if there is a priest available to visit the nursing homes, as no one is going right now. Fr. Steve said he would look into a rotation and Collette brings Communion on Fridays. Deacon Mote said deacons can do a communion service and hopefully with our soon to be ordained deacons we can incorporate that too; There was discussion on holding some type of event to get the parents of the PSR students to stay while children in class to start forming more community among that age group; Chris mentioned in the Trenton bulletin they put a basket together for families who had a recent baptism, marriage or know of homebound persons.

Family Life and Social Activities: Report given by Judy Winkler – In process of working on census, ~70 people did paper and those need to be hand-entered, ~40 did online so in total have had about ¼ of congregation respond; there was more discussion about Flocknote helping with this process too.

Christian Services/Social Justice: Report given by Janice - Just Faith Series: The Just Faith Program titled Faith and Poverty: A Justice Response will be offered virtually through Zoom beginning Friday, January 27 from 10 am – 12 pm. This is an 8-week program; I am participating in this program; Just Faith Program on Faith and Poverty will be held every other Thursday from 7 – 9 pm at Mater Dei Library; The Just Faith Program titled Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response Through Catholic Social Teaching will be offered on zoom on 9 consecutive Mondays starting February 6 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.; The Just Faith Programs were created by JustFaith Ministries in partnership with the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. To register go to www.justfaith.org/programs. Catholic Relief Services (CRS): The Metro East Vicariate CRS chapter members are sponsoring a Super Rice Bowl Playoff Game virtual Trivia Night on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 7 pm. Let me know if you are interested or email crsdiobell@gmail.com.; The diocesan CRS representatives will hold their first in-person meeting since COVID on Saturday, February 11, 9 am – 3 pm at St. Mary School in Centralia. We will be discussing ideas to promote CRS Rice Bowl in the various parishes as well as ideas for Lenten prayer and the national Eucharistic Revival. The gathering will also include a CRS Rice Bowl Cookoff. Recipes can be found at www.crsricebowl.org/recipe The Winner will receive \$75 in fair trade products; second place will receive \$25 in fair trade products. Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services which provides Catholics the opportunity to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Respect Life: Mary Fleming is the Coordinator for Respect Life Apostolate and Program Director of Project Rachel. Hispanic Ministry: The position for Director of Hispanic Ministry is still open. Ministry for Sick & Aging: Please encourage persons to let us know of members of our parish who are homebound, hospitalized, or residents in long-term care facilities. Sister Parish: Janie is working on getting new pictures printed and updated information for the bulletin board in the hallway. Mater Dei (from Jill Tasker): A Faculty retreat was held and kicked off a new Faith Formation Program for all faculty; All ASA and St. Paul 7th and 8th graders are being invited to the Catholic Schools Week Mass on 2/1/2023. Catholic Schools Week is the end of January and beginning of February; Fresh/Soph/Junior retreat is scheduled in February; Class of 2027 Information Night is on January 19th. This is for incoming freshman and their parents; The website is being managed by a new account which has provided faster speed; Senior Service Projects are underway throughout the metro-east area; Band Parents are hosting a Knight at the Races on February 18th in the MD commons area; Spring Musical is The Lightning Thief; Through the diocese, a catechist training via Franciscan at Home is being offered online for staff members; Graduation is on May 26. Food Pantry: A meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 25 at St. Pius V in St. Louis to discuss strategies regarding the Farm Bill. Persons from food pantries are encouraged to attend. I will share the information with individuals from our local food pantry as soon as I receive it. Knights of Columbus: No information to share.

Youth Ministry/Social Media Outreach: Report given by Kassie – Advent series going great; smaller groups of 15+/-; finished cookies and made ~\$5K; Had their Christmas party and went well; started a series on the sacraments; Last week two adults from St. Nicholas in O’Fallon came to see how they run Life Teen and ask questions – they are starting a Life Teen there and want to observe; couple teens and several adults from Life Teen are attending the 99; Working on putting together a youth council to get youth involved behind the scenes and two youth members are interested in being on the Parish Council; Stopping hosting the Fish Dinner because it is easier and make more money doing trivia but committed to continue helping at the event; Kassie’s last meeting, she has been on since 2016 and her insight will be missed.

Communication: Report given by Chris – Will send Justin a note including Flocknote info; it was asked if St. George an St. Mary would be on the same and it was suggested by Fr. Steve that they be kept separate.

Liturgy & Worship/Pastor’s Report: Report from Fr. Beatty – Hispanic Ministry just hired someone last Monday, Maria ____, she is a self-started and they changed the position to a full-time position since she will be shared more widely; 93 people attended the 99; IL Attorney General is issuing a report on abuse in the Catholic Church that

spans many years back, not positive how extensive this will be but should be no big surprises. This will include the crimes committed and how the abuse was managed.

Old Business

Election ballots produced several new names: Jamie Wyms, Ryan Hund, Monica Hellman, Kaylee Mueller, Lyndsey Tripp, Ken Billhartz, Susie Hintz, Bonnie Zurliene. There will be a special meeting in February before the Joint Council meeting where the candidates will be invited and will have discussion on roles/responsibilities to see if they would be interested in joining the Council.

New Business

Next meeting is a Joint Council meeting set for 2/8/2023 at 7pm in New Baden at the CLC (and 6pm for new candidates). Next St. George Council meeting is set for 3/21/2023 7pm at the CLC.

The group ended in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at ~8:30pm

Recording secretary: Dana Woods