**FEBRUARY 21,2019 AD ST.HELEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Fr. Jay, Jeff Cicchella, Kelly Reed, Clare O’Brien, Deb Finomore, Francine Dome, Ron Thompson, Suzanne Finnerty, Luke Reed, Nathan Frania, Linda Koeth

**Excused:** DennisBlatnik, Chris Evans, Bob Mcilroy

**Also, in attendance:** Maria Flauto, and Pat Gannon

**Shed for soccer field Jeff- presented for Sharon**

Would like permission to put a shed on the field and wanted to know the next steps after getting approval. Need to speak with Ken M. to see if we can just do a shed or a shelter to evacuate. This may be a good project for an Eagle Scout.

**Action Item:** Fr. Jay will follow up with Ken on the logistics.

**Server Training Ron**

Please see the attached documents outlining more information regarding this topic. It was brought to attention as the Brothers of the Cross transitions to the Troupe to St. George that the requirement is for the group is to be an alter server by grade 4. Currently at St. Helen servers begin training at grade 5. Would Fr. Jay consider lowering the requirement, which would open the candidate pool. (See the attachment of the pool of servers currently on the list)

Kelley Vanek is the one taking over the scheduling of the servers. Maria did have Kelly do a clean up of the system to pull out those who were not active and did not want to serve. Ron is willing to work with Kelly. Fr. Jay wants to ensure that the kids can serve often enough,

Training History: Fr. has been doing a training through a DVD and now the quality is going down; training was in groups of 6 to keep them on task and making sure it is productive; hands on is the best – looking at working with Maria to set up a program on Sat. afternoons,

In addition, would like to Introduce 4 servers in the liturgy to help engage the servers in the liturgy more. See the sheet for the introduction of a newer training process, under the guidance of Deacon Larry- leaders of the Troupe to aid in facilitating the training

**Action Item:** Ron follow up with Fr. to discuss further.

**Action Item**: move mirror which was in the bride’s room to the server area so servers can see while vesting. If can not find the mirror purchase one.

**Ministry Tables Suzanne/Ron**

It was proposed last meeting to bring back Ministry tables and to explore the best use the space in the gathering area. In addition, finding a way to make the information desk more visible and useful to the parishioners. The Emmaus is a great focal point for this as well as it is really what all the ministries are about. It was proposed to move the votive candles to the Pieta statue, which seems to be a more prayerful space. As well, put locking wheels on the information desk to make it more mobile. The area in front of the Emmaus statue is sometimes use for viewings for funerals. Ministry tables would then be place off to the side of the information desk.

Establish a vetting process for the people who would like to be used for the ministries and require approval for use of the table(s); establish a set of guidelines for the information and set up of the table(s). Connect with the art and environment so the table coverings reflect the liturgical part of the year.

Additional suggestions:

* looking at assessing the size for the tables more of 2x4 set of tables was suggested; however also suggested the marriage enrichment tables (2x2) would be enough
* also highlight a ministry a month to introduce and showcase the ministry table- this is the marketing and highlighting of items in church-most of the items
* look at utilizing the space on the wall more to view more information which may be out in the entrance to inform more people (especially about vocations)
* look at making sure it is not taking away from the gathering space
* could we purpose this desk as more of a ministry desk- but still need the desk for being able to schedule items when they could not come to the parish office

**Action item:** Move the information desk first then work on the next steps. Confirmed by Jeff this was done. Suzanne will speak with Ken to see about alternatives for the votive candles (ensuring fire safety).

**Adopt a Baby Clare**

Proposed praying for a baby each day, Clare visited St. Mary which showed the baby in all the stages of life. She suggested praying for the 40 days (starting in March if possible) comes at the right time with the pro-life. In addition, to possibly getting the school involved. Pat thought that it would be great to start it at the beginning of the school year and pray throughout. Announcements and information could be published in the bulletin and prayer cards distributed.

In addition,Clare passed out the information about the Legion of Mary

**40 Days for Life**

Clare also informed the council; the Bishop will be the keynote speaker for the kick off for 40 days for Life. She encouraged council and others to pick a Sat. to attend and pray at Planned Parenthood. There is a calendar to sign for days to come and pray. See Clare for more information.

**Memorial for Unborn Clare-** was not discussed

**New Sign Linda**

It has been observed that you are not able to read the mass times. Fr. Jay commented that they have corrected the ability to see the mass times, time and date have been eliminated. Please be patient as the staff is learning the software. A rotation of announcements is planned so the content is always fresh and relevant.

**Hymn # Jeff**

Talked to all music ministries; would like to have the ushers change the numbers on the hymn boards. Ron reported that Walter will include them on the email with the information. The suggestion was made that the music ministries be responsible for posting the hymn numbers for each mass since they are aware the hymns chosen for each mass.

**Action Item:** Suzanne will make something to put in front of numbers to delineate between the two books in which songs are chosen.

**Clapping during Mass Luke/Jeff**

We need to be the ambassadors, and have the reverence for the mass, making sure the mass is not a performance; The discussion then reverted to hand positioning during the Our Father. It was stated by Fr. Jay that he did not implement in our parish. It was suggested that council be the examples to not us the posture. Fr. Jay does not feel it is right to tell parishioners they cannot use the hand posture during the Our Father.

Action Item: Luke will email an article to all of council regarding this topic.

**Fr. Jay update:**

1. **Letter to Bishop**- letter only went down to Bishop this last week will follow up for us
2. **Expanding adoration**- Fr. talked to Bishop when he was here about expanding our adoration time; technically there should not be adoration during mass times; can be a distraction with the sound; looking at how to expand the hours for adoration to more frequently. Some possibilities are to have glass door or wooden door to have the eucharistic exposed in a monstrance; Look at doing a 24/5 day- night hours would do once a month; or only 8am to 9 pm then would just have to close up. The chapel would not be open on the weekends. If we would expand would need to let people know when would be the times that there might not be silence; Another possibility is to look to change the sign-up hours around that and what is happening in the church. The hours still need to be accommodating to those who have children or work later hours who would like to attend adoration.

Action Item**:** have a committee with parish to study some of the options and start then continuing forward Jeff, Deb, Nathan

1. **Heart of Jesus and PC-** please as Parish Council consider making the Heart of Jesus retreat which is April 6th and 7th – combination of teaching and witnesses
2. **Life teen retreat:** coming up, please pray; sports are becoming more and more important than the faith; our teens need to be fed
3. **Pray for Father;** and preaching on the scandal in the church as the meeting is going on in Rome – young people where years ago the priest was a second father, today we are not able to have such blessings; but need to focus on the blessings

**Additional Items discussed:**

**St. Michael Prayer-** 2nd council- want to have the mass stand on its own; reasons not using the prayers; praying after communion would be a way- Fr. needs to check in on this

**Theme for Lent:**

**Be merciful O’Lord, for we have sinned**

-Thinking of putting designs for the theme (Suzanne passed them around one for adults and one for kids) in the confessionals and in the gathering space. The goal is to cause people to really think about sin during the Lenten season. In addition, have a take home; put in the bulletin or put on the TV screen in the gathering space as well. It was suggested to print them to have on table, then can take which one which would be for your family.

**Parish Council meeting** – voted and approved for meetings to be 7-9 pm

**Next Parish Council meeting:** March 14,2019

**Fr Jay closed with a prayer**