**APRIL 11,2019 AD ST. HELEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Fr. Jay, Jeff Cicchella, Kelly Reed, Clare O’Brien, Deb Finomore, Francine Dome, Suzanne Finnerty, Linda Koeth, Bob Mcilroy, Chris Evans

**Excused:** Ron Thompson, Luke Reed, Dennis Blatnik, Nathan Frania

**Also in attendance:** Maria Flauto

**Opening Prayer Fr. Jay**

**Holy Days Mass Schedule Fr. Jay**

The main concern is the 6:30 am mass has not been a success that thought would be and Fr. Jay want to get thoughts on holy day in the future. The idea was that people could get to mass, before going to work. It was agreed that what ever was decided that it be consistent. However, the feeling was that one year is not really giving it time to make it consistent for people. The majority also agreed that they would rather have mass in the evening at 7:30pm rather than 7pm. The reasoning for the evening at 7pm was that we were trying to be consistent with all the first Friday mass as well.

Agreement was 8am and 7:30pm seems to be a great fit and school days there would be 11am for school mass if on holy day.

Voted and agreed and approved the above.

**Summer Mass Schedule Fr. Jay**

We have been trying to do 5pm on Sunday, some parishes the Life Teen mass is the largest mass; the idea was to have an option that would be able to get to if not able to attend other masses. Life teen has dwindled as well with numbers so the struggle is keeping the mass up over the summer is the practical part of getting the lectors and eucharistic minsters for the mass. The idea would to only hold the 5pm Sunday mass once a month during the summer.

Suggestions were to put articles in the bulletin suggestion to have a survey of the choices, and get the feelings of parishioners. Father would prefer to do the mass, since it is a smaller rather than asking someone to do it. Father would rather not do them during the summer, his energy is not there he will do what the parish needs.

Agreed to keep with the 5pm one Sun. a month during the summer.

**White Book Francine**

250 were ordered- see how people would like it – 57 for each mass; see about distributing them on Palm Sunday so they are going to our parishioners. Goal is to get the people who are not attending to back to the church to utilize this tool to gain a closer relationship with God.

It was decided to order 500 more and parish council will pass out at mass on Easter.

Bob and Suzanne will do 7am, others will volunteer to do the rest

**Action:** Suzanne will make sticker to put on the inside with parish information, St. Helen window

**Display of Oils Suzanne**

Sue Milnark- was part of the initial planning the church; she was thinking someone could build by the wall near the baptismal font a display for the oils. All are displayed differently for example three shelves and lighted; we could keep it simple or be creative. The display could be at the entrance of the chapel like at ND or located near the baptismal font. However, when built the church was not in the scheme of the plan.

Having on display would prompt questions for others to gain knowledge as well as putting in the bulletin. Look at a link- basilthegreat.podbean.com for additional information.

**Action:** get pictures of different places that have them, to get a picture of what are the possibilities- Suzanne will email to the council before the next meeting

**Adoration Jeff**

Talked with Ken about Adoration to change lock to a digital lock, this would be expensive since the door does not operation like a normal door. However, we do have the old tabernacle that has the glass and closed door. We would then be able to expand adoration to an additional day.

In order to expand we would need to look at doing publicity to let parishioners know the benefits and how adoration can deepen one’s relationship with Jesus.

Ideas for gaining awareness:

Fr. Jay speaking about at mass; focusing books from the library, highlighting them; start communicating about it so then would build so by August would have a good attendance

Tues and Thurs- always be behind the glass then parishioners would be able to go at any time.

**Action**: Fr. Jay will talk to Joanne about the logistics of scheduling this and recruiting parishioners

**Succession Planning All**

Need to start putting in the bulletin so have names by June. Current council members who were on the list to rotate off but Linda, Jeff will stay. Chris Evans will be leaving; As of the meeting Clare and Kelly were still both undecided.

Looking at continuing in the summer and maybe having July off; not taking the whole summer off was voted and approved to meet 12 months of the year; if members are not able to attend, we will work around it.

As of this meeting will need one to two people to fill vacancies. Think of people to nominate in case need to fill the positions; see people that were not selected that were still interested from last year.

**Other Topics All**

Looking at technology to stream the mass for the homebound

Father is going on a retreat with Bishop at the end of May to begin of June with the Bishop.

Follow up on the letter Father send to the Bishop a directive from Bishop should be in place by Devine Mercy Sun, we will return to original directive remain standing until the last person receives communion. As soon as the communion rite is finished then sit or knee; do not have to wait until the eucharist is in the tabernacle. Father is going to talk to people about it. UNITY IS WHAT IT SUPPOSE TO BE ABOUT

**Action**: Fr. Jay will put in the copy of the letter in the bulletin

Fr. Jay was approached to have Susan Tassone having her come to St. Helen for free, on All Saints day after the 7:30 mass. Usually the cost is $4000 to have her speak. This should not interfere with the marriage retreat weekend.

Find out how long the talk would be to be able to decide if we need to have mass at 7pm that evening. It was also suggested to maybe have babysitting so parents and family could attend.

**It was agreed that Fr. Jay should accept the invitation to have her speak at St. Helen.**

**Suggestion box**: eliminate the statement of cell phones; fewer announcements- prepare your hearts and minds for mass- council thinks this is a good reminder

Small handrail in the chapel for the seniors from the church- agree to seeing about putting up a rail.

HOJ: why are we not getting people from the parish to attend; there are so many benefits such as meeting people, hearing the witnesses and seeing how God works; if you want more people to show up then may need to change something. The topic was discussed if is priority and where is parishioners’ hearts are in regard to building a stronger relationship with Jesus. Are we proclaiming Jesus enough to be able to spread the word? How do we get the people, to meet them where they are able to see, are they intimidated by what is happening?

**Closing Prayer Fr. Jay**