

# **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**

New Freedom, Pa. 17349

## **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

**Date:** February 11, 2020

**Attendance:** Present: Bo Gifford, Bobby Campbell, Brian Sherman, Dennis Sarpen, Diana Morrison, Fr. Ben Dunkelberger, Fr. Robert Yohe, Gary Grant Mary Glass, Sister Jane Keller, Sue Marek, Mark Phipps, Tom Young, Tony Forella

**Opening Prayer:** Offered by Dennis Sarpen

**Review of Minutes:** January 2020 Minutes Approved

**Presentation – Christmas Bazaar Committee:** Carol Karotko

Profits realized for the 2019 Bazaar were \$39,100.00. Carol wanted input from the council if they wished the Bazaar to be the main fund raiser for the Church. If so, she felt there needed to be a more global presence by parishioners in this affair. Majority of the 2019 receipts were from 5 categories:

Raffle with the increased ticket number to 15 - \$7,700.00

Silent Auction - \$7,600.00

Baskets - \$4,500/\$5,000.00

Furniture/Art - \$2,500.00

Bake Sale - \$1,500.00

For 2020, they have decided to eliminate the books as the profit was only \$400 and it was felt there could be a better use of the space. Also, they are considering adding a musical performance with donation by the Xavier Company and an ex-parishioner Evan Brick could be contacted to assist with this endeavor.

*Question was raised as to budget for the bazaar. Per Father Yohe there is no budget, but parish does supply start-up money.*

*K of C could offer assistance, but would need specific dates, times and number of persons needed.*

Discussion then turned to the possibility of substituting/adding Bingo. Barry Price could be contacted if this is adopted as he has experience running successful events.

### 2020 Bazaar Challenges

- Storage space – ideas on storage areas/facility
- Basket Wrap donations - \$12.99 per unit
- Handyman/person to work on repairs/woodwork
- Securing musical performance/s
- Getting buy-in from all church organizations – to help supply new items for baskets
- Bazaar room amenities – heat, food, beverages
- Vehicle help at time of Bazaar – loading in and transporting

For 2019 Carol herself made 310 baskets. She did distribute 40% coupons to Michael's if council members wished to use them to purchase 40 x 100 feet of cellophane for basket use to reduce cost. Carol and her committee worked from 3 days per week in the early part of the year to 5 to 7 days toward the date of the bazaar. The room in which they worked was without heat and sufficient electrical outlets as they now have a small refrigerator. *Father Yohe stated that the church was in the process of correcting both issues.*

2020 goal is \$40,000 plus and proposed bazaar fund raisers are a Yard sale at Stewart Connectors. In March (28th and 29<sup>th</sup>) they are planning an Atrium Sale with spring items, candy and cookies. On 6/20/20 from 8 am to 1 pm will be a "Price is Right" yard sale and another yard sale is planned for August.

### 2020 Bazaar work stations:

- Baskets
- Vintage/Homegoods
- Christmas – new and gently used
- Baked goods
- Religious
- Crafts

- Pet
- Face Painting
- Price is Right
- Magic Tree
- Garden and outdoors
- Furniture
- Art gallery
- Raffle tickets
- 50/50 tickets
- Atrium – sales, raffles, silent auction
- Food sales
- Women’s boutique
- Secret Santa for kids
- Gingerbread houses

We have a Core Committee in place but hope to expand. We would like to see a fund-raising steering committee to review ideas, coordinate schedules and determine work teams. Some ideas include a Shredding day for a fee (little overhead and good benefit), a high end consignment day with items over 50 to 100, and a musical performance such as Xavier Comp NYC

Carole also inquired about the Lorica Reward which was published in “The Witness”. She inquired if any parishioner who could qualify could be nominated as a thank you for hard work.

Dates for 2020 are Nov 13, 14, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Wish lists to be placed in Sunday bulletins with needed items.

**A. School Principal Report:** Sue Marek

1. Open Houses – Both school and preschool open houses had a nice turnout. People seem to like what they see. Registration has begun for school (3/1). Preschool begins at end of February.

2. Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silent Auction Gala is on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets are going fast. Join us for a fun evening. We are also planning a Dinner Theatre in April (4/25). More information to come.
3. Catholic school's week was a lot of fun. Each day brought lots of fun for the children. We had a team Faith bee on Wednesday, a Spelling bee on Thursday and a Geography bee on Friday. Questions for the Faith Bee were from the Diocesan High school Faith bee and our students were able to go 6 rounds before we ran out of time. While they can't compete at the Diocesan Level, we are very proud of how well they did. Winners of the Spelling Bee and Geography Bee will represent our school at the Diocesan level in March. PTO provided wonderful treats for the staff each day. We ended the week with a movie night.

Sue is retiring this year and there is a search team for her replacement.

*Question: Are K of C needed for the gala. They have 8 names for use.*

*Sue will check with chair-people and get back to K of C.*

Grant money for the updated security turned out to be less than expected and it was learned that there had to be a financial match (80/20) by the school. Therefore, there will not be as much work done as planned.

However, the use of desks and chairs from St. Joseph's will save money and that amount will be used for the door security system.

**B. Parish Manager Report/Building and Grounds Committee:**

See Pastor's report and comments.

**C. Religious Education Report:** Sister Jane

1. Religious Ed classes are in session for all students age 3 through high school
2. RCIA classes meet each Sunday after our 9 Mass in the SEC room. RCIC students meet on Wednesday evening t 6 pm
3. RCIA/RCIC candidates will celebrate the Rite of Sending and Call to Continual Conversion on Sunday 3/1. The Rite of Election will be

celebrated later in the date on 3/1 with our Catechumens at the Cathedral.

4. The following Family Prayer events are scheduled:  
     2/13 Grade 1 students and their families  
     2/23 Grade 2 students and their families
5. Our Grade 5-6 family retreat event was held 2/1. Both Evangelization Committee and the K of C assisted in preparing/hosting this event.
6. First Penance will be celebrated on 2/29 with our second grade students and their families.
7. Planning has begun for our upcoming Retreat Days offered for all our youth and their Parents/Sponsors/Families preparing for Sacrament of Initiation.  
     March 14 – Grade 7 students and sponsor/parent  
     March 21 – Grade 1 students  
     March 28 – Grade 8 candidates and sponsor/parent  
     April 25 – Grade 2 students
8. Religious Ed and School have joined together in sponsoring a “Gertrude Hawk” and “Braided Bread” fundraiser. Orders need to be placed by February 13<sup>th</sup>.
9. St. John ‘s will continue to host a Diocesan Good Shepherd level 1 Catechesis Course beginning the weekend of March 14/15 and continuing through November.
10. During Lent both our school and religious ed will be uniting efforts in gathering their sacrifice offerings for the good of the parish and assistance toward local charities.
11. Registration for our 19/20 religious ed program continues to stay open. Additional adult and teen volunteers continue to be invited to assist with our Catechist teams.
12. Our religious ed school staff team-up as often as possible highlighting that “We are one Faith Family”. (This includes parent meetings, presentations, family prayer sessions, retreat days, mission projects, fundraisers and seasonal events.
13. We continue to search out and make available meaningful opportunities for our students to experience and practice their faith,

while encouraging faithful attendance and participation including both our school and religious ed.

D. **Youth Ministry Report:** Father Dunkelburger

This weekend we had 10 students in attendance. Program is going well with several social events planned.

E. **Evangelization Committee Report:** Brian Sherman for Barb Bittner

Since we have some new members serving on the parish council this year, we thought it would be a good idea to mention, in case everyone was not aware, that the Evangelization committee is an outreach committee within the parish council. All members of the council are welcome to either join the planning committee or participate and support any of the activities offered during the year. We also welcome your ideas for ministry or programs you might have for Evangelization. We truly value your opinion.

1. **Friends & Family Weekend** – We had a good turnout last month. So many people that for the first time, we ran out of donuts toward the end. Thankfully, through the generosity of Big Apple Bagel we still had plenty of bagels. The total cost of the event was covered by donations from parishioners and Big Apple Bagel. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success once again. Following is schedule for remainder of 2020: July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>; September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

2. **Prayer teams after each Mass** – Prayer teams are available after each Mass over the weekend of the last Sunday of each month. This month we will be available 2/22 and 2/23. We would love to have you join us. The schedule is flexible meaning you are not required to commit to every month or the same Mass each month. Please let us know if you have any questions or simply feel free to stop by anytime to observe and pray with us if you feel led by the Holy Spirit.

3. New Parishioner Wine & Cheese – The 2020 Wine & Cheese is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> after the 5 pm Mass. Parish council members are encouraged to stop in to welcome and introduce yourself to new parishioners. This is a good opportunity to get to know a little about each other and answer any questions about our Parish Ministries and organizations.
4. Unbound Heart of the Father Ministries – We continue to support the Unbound Ministry. Please contact Fr. Ben for more information about the Unbound process. All inquiries are confidential. Additional information about the ministry such as upcoming conferences and leader prayer training can be found at <https://www.heartofthefather.com>
5. Sparrow Place – Our health ministry is interested in joining us to plan a presentation with Sparrow Place at St. John's for all parish members and possibly open to the community. This would be like their event last year at the New Freedom Community Center and would include presentations and Q&A sessions with Law Enforcement, School security, medical and mental health professionals. Please let us know if this is something you feel would be good to pursue.

**F. Pastor's Report and Comments:** Father Yohe

1. Working on Evangelization program with more information to come.
2. Lent – Penance on 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.
3. 3 students need interview for Confirmation
4. Had meeting with Deanery last Friday to schedule personnel.
5. Steve Udinski wishes to enter seminary (probably St. Charles) - sent letter to Bishop
6. Carl Friedhoff is in final semester for diaconate. Evaluation has been sent to Bishop and if approved, ordination will be 6/20/20 in Harrisburg. There could be a class of 36 and we hope Carl will be assigned back to our parish.
7. Diocesan fund is short \$31,684.00. Father expects to receive information shortly requiring a loan in this amount.

8. 2020 Lenten Appeal has been raised to by \$10,000. To \$192,000.00
9. Electricity in the historic Church has been repaired. Roof cost has been paid in full.
10. Statues have been installed on each side of the altar in the main church. Track lights will be added.
11. Organ repair almost finished. We have sufficient funds for repair.
12. Safety Grants – We have put in for the grants, which if secured, will be used to secure the office.
13. Step-Up Program – Finance committee will give report at end of fiscal year showing donation break-down of approximately 1900 households and launching this step-up program.
14. Attendance has been stable – no increase, but no decrease.
15. A class action suit has been filed in Pittsburgh and has been expanded to include all 8 dioceses. Bishop will be giving more information. *Correction: This should have read that the class action suit has NOT been expanded to include all 8 dioceses at this time.*

**G. Knights of Columbus:** Mark Phipps

1. Polish Dinner – Final figures not available, but feel they reached profit goal.
2. Changes to Knight Degrees – Requirements and installations are being changed with regard to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree of Knights. At present they are in a transition phase to the new regulations.
3. Need youth – Membership Drive 2/29 and 3/1
4. 3 Lenten Dinners scheduled – need help  
*Question: What parish in Shrewsbury/New Freedom has held a benefit dance on the same date as the Polish Dinner the last 2 yrs. M. Glass will get this information to the K of C,*

**H. General Discussion:**

1. Bazaar Discussion – Decided this is a critical fundraiser. Needs List for the weekly bulletin should be submitted to Shelley.
2. Addition of Bingo as fund raiser – 14 to 16 volunteers would be needed. Would need scheduling not to conflict with school, surrounding entities, library etc. School has bingo scheduled in



October and Library has one in June. Shoot for a Sunday afternoon or Saturday around 6 pm. Barry Price will take the helm. Dennis will check dates with Shelley. It was noted that St. Joseph clears \$5000 to \$7000 on each event. Father Yohe suggested holding in the spring after Lent/Easter. Need a span of 2 months for advertising.

3. Fund Raising Steering Committee could be looked at for the future.
4. Sparrow Place – Discussion regarding a presentation to the parish. It was decided that an experienced presenter could give parents the signs to look for regarding suicide. Could be scheduled in the fall.
5. Lord's Lunch at St. John's Lutheran Church scheduled for 2/15 needs baked goods.

**Closing Prayer** offered by Dennis Sarpen

Respectfully submitted: Mary Glass for Rosemary Hartman

**Next Meeting: March 10, 2020**

**Future Prayer Leaders:**

March – Tom Young  
 April – Tony Forella  
 May – Rosemary Hartman

**Past Prayer Leaders:**

October - Brian Sherman  
 November – Gary Grant  
 December – No meeting (A. Carleton)  
 January – Diana Morrison  
 February – D. Sarpen for Janice Elsen