



Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Parish Council News

November 22, 2017

Dear Parish Family-

Monday night, we held our Parish Council Meeting which was an Open Meeting to the whole parish community. I was happy to see 30 people in attendance and even happier to hear lots of great input from so many parishioners. At the end of the meeting during our 'Around the Table,' someone said, "*I'm so happy to see our Parish Council does so much!*" Thank goodness their hard work and great contribution to the parish is being recognized. That same person also said, "*I just wish you would keep us updated regularly on the work of the Council.*" Thus... this letter. And a new goal of clear, quick, consistent updates and communication. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

Generosity in Service

Cardinal Wuerl has officially assigned Deacon Jim Doyle to serve our parish as a Permanent Deacon and so he becomes an ex-officio member of our Council (by nature of his office of Deacon). He and his wife Cindy were present at the meeting. (Pastor's note: Jim does not receive a salary or compensation for his service here. It is an act of love/charity to serve God by serving all in this parish.)

Welcome Committee

After months and months of discussing the need for a group who could personally welcome new members to the parish, we formed one. There is an average of 1.5 new families registering here each week. These new members will continue to receive a welcome packet and will now also receive a personal phone call of welcome and invitation to meet for coffee to learn about our parish life. The Welcome Committee will also celebrate a quarterly reception for all those recently registered.

Go "Green"

For a slight increase in our monthly energy bills, we can instruct that all the energy our parish uses from our electric provider come from 'green' renewable, clean sources. After months of research and presentation from Joe Theis, our Council recommended we proceed and make the change then monitor the cost increase to ensure it is actually in the range of \$27/month as expected. After the new contracts are signed, we will receive a 'Green-e Energy Certified Renewable Energy Certificate' and so will practice good care of God's creation. We will follow up by applying for EPA recognition as a renewable energy organization.

Emergency Savings

A great concern was expressed by many that our parish has no Emergency Fund set aside as detailed in our last Finance Report to the parish a month ago. A plan should be developed to address this. This is something we can accomplish, with time. A minimum healthy Emergency Fund is equal to three months' worth of expenses or \$160,000. To achieve this in 5 years is only an additional \$32,000 a year. Someone summed up our parish finances this way, "*Our parish is hanging on by a thread! We all need to give a little more.*" A Stewardship Committee has assembled themselves to create a plan and address this with the parish.

Holy Redeemer

Parish Council Members

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**Executive Committee Member*

Latin Mass Parts

The Church has centuries full of beautiful traditions guiding us along a continuity of worship. For some, the inclusion of Latin disrupts their prayerful participation at Mass while many others enjoy the beauty of these ancient traditions sprinkled into the liturgy. Since our mission is unity, not division, our Council recommends any further use of Latin Mass parts at Mass be preceded and accompanied by thorough and continual education/formation so the beauty of this tradition can bring all of us into a deeper encounter with Christ at Mass.

Catholic Social Teaching

A request was made during our 'Around the Table' session for our parish to address this area of our faith more deeply. Our Council has been discussing this as well over this last year. Now that our new Service Committee is up and running to deal with offering more opportunities for our parishioners to gather for charity to those outside our parish, we are now able to turn our attention to address Catholic Social Teachings.

More and more parishioners are stepping forward to lead us in matters addressing matters arising as our parish grows. Members of a new Spirituality Committee have accepted my request to work to ensure we offer programs throughout the year to address the concerns, interests and spiritual needs of our current parishioners today. Catholic Social Teaching can be at the top of their list.

So much happens here that you might not see or know about as you come and go each week with Mass. We are increasing our efforts to communicate and invite everyone to a deeper worship of God at Mass through Jesus Christ, who is the source of our communion and community and to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to respond by loving/serving our families and loved ones, our parish and those in need outside our parish. Hopefully this letter helps you know more about these happenings. As always, please respond to your Parish Council members or me with interests and concerns.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mark and the Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings Schedule

Parish Council Meetings are held every other non-summer month. Our remaining ones for this year are: January 22, 2018, March 19, 2018, and May 21, 2018

Executive Committee Meetings where the Agenda is set, are held at least one week prior. Those days are: January 15, 2018, March 12, 2018, and May 7, 2018