



Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Parish Council News

November 2017

Our next Parish Council Meeting is an Open Meeting!

We invite all members of the parish to join us on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. on the Mezzanine for this Open Parish Council Meeting. The agenda will be simple: to hear what you would like to see our parish address in the next three years.

Over these last three years, we set ourselves to listening to the needs of the parish, we set goals to address these needs, and we have checked off a long and challenging list. I am very proud of the work this Council has accomplished. Now, it is time again to reenter the planning phase for these next three years and we welcome your input. We need your help. Please pray about where the Holy Spirit might be leading our parish and share your thoughts at the meeting.

If you are unable to be present, it is still easy to have your concerns included and addressed. The easiest way is to speak to any of the current members either in person or by email. Addresses are on our website and included at the end of this newsletter. Any one of our members would be happy to share your ideas and concerns at the meeting. By the way, this goes for any meeting. We include an *“Around the Table”* session at each meeting, providing each member a chance to share your concerns or raise new business of their own.

If you don't know any of these members, just address your thoughts/concerns/ideas to our Executive Committee. Currently, they are Sean Ballantine, Ginger Thompson, Rosemarie Tully. These three meet with the pastor a week before each meeting to set the agenda for that upcoming meeting.

We are one body - The Body of Christ. I believe the Spirit works through each one of us so let your voice be heard.

Parish Council Meetings Schedule

Parish Council Meetings are held every other non-summer month. Our remaining ones for this year are: November 20, 2017, 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: November 13, 2017, January 15, 2018, March 12, 2018, and May 7, 2018

Holy Redeemer

Parish Council Members

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**Executive Committee Member*

Parish Council Topics for Discussion

Our topics of our meetings usually include:

Worship

The most important thing we do as a parish is worship God at **Sunday Mass**. Working to heighten the experience at our Sunday liturgy, and all that flows from it, is the most important work we do as a Parish Council.

Since God is always calling more people to Himself through our parish, we are asking how can we be more “welcoming to the strangers” among us. Shall we create a new ‘Welcoming Ministry’ and what would it do?

Community

When we worship God through the person of Jesus Christ, we find ourselves in Communion with Him, who is the bond that builds and binds our community. This is a much deeper friendship than is found in most other communities so we share it in unique ways.

The **Harvest Bazaar** is an annual community event and **Community Sundays** are monthly events. Recently, we have added the **Fan into Flame Parish Retreats** and the small prayer groups springing from them, more day-long **Pilgrimages** and longer ones like our recent Pilgrimage to Italy, Wednesday night **Eucharistic Adoration** and Saturday morning **Lectio Divina** where we pray with the upcoming Sunday’s Gospel.

We are also working on more **Days of Recollection for Advent and Lent**, and a series of talks on current topics. What topics might be helpful to hear about at these?

Service

Really good worship brings us to a deeper communion; “friendship” with Christ or discipleship. True disciples are called and sent through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit...to serve. We first serve first; our families, friends and those we encounter each day.

Our parish offers many opportunities to serve beyond that and within our community: **Homebound Ministry**, **Bereavement Ministry**, **Kitchen Crew**, **Money Counters**, **Crafters/Quilters** and the **Harvest Bazaar Crew**, **Liturgical Ministers**, our **School of Religion** and our **Holy Redeemer School**.

We also serve those beyond our own parish community through: **Safe Haven**, **Community Place Cafe**, ‘Canned’ **Food Drives**, and **St. Anne’s Infant and Maternity Center Drive**, our **Poor Box** and **Second Collections**.

A new **Service Committee** has been established as a group of parishioner who gather to pray and grow in discipleship through planning opportunities for the individuals and families of this parish to serve those in need outside our parish. Last year, they orchestrated **Christmas in April** and a few **River Clean Up Days**. How or who would you like to serve through this group’s work?

Stewardship

Our parish life and our church buildings, just like our faith, have been received from those who have gone before us and is to be handed onto those who follow behind us. We are stewards of so much great work. How do we increase our **Offertory Collection** to continue this life and to maintain the beauty and stability of our buildings? Are we in need of a **Buildings and Grounds Committee**?