

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President, Roseanne DeFrancisco at 6:35PM.

The following members were in attendance: Father Jay, Tina Bidic, Theresa Bifulco, Roseanne DeFrancisco, Kathie Downie, Rich Falk, Deacon Chris Nichols, Sharon Shephard, Beth Takacs and Joe Webb.

Opening prayer: Rich Falk

A motion was made by Joe Webb to approve the November 2008 minutes. It was seconded by Rich Falk. The minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

- To date we have sold 189 ornament/sun catchers of the church.
- 42 usable pints of blood were collected during our January 29th Blood Drive. The Red Cross inquired if we could hold another drive on May 29th. The council members made a recommendation that we wait until the fall since our last spring drive was not very successful.
- There was a meeting on Monday, January 12th concerning our Commemorative Book/DVD. See attached minutes from that meeting. Rich Falk was asked about approximate costs for having this book published. He estimates the cost to be approximately \$7 - \$15 per book if between 50 and 150 books are printed. Size, number of pages and color vs. black and white are all factors which will affect the final cost.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kathie Downie addressed the Breakfast to be held at St. Teresa's Church in Bridgeton on March 15th. This Breakfast will benefit the newly formed parish, so we are asking for volunteers from all four of the merging parishes to participate that day. Baked Goods are also needed for this event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Social Concerns: No report

Vocations: There will be a meeting this coming Saturday, February 21st of all the Deacons in our diocese with Bishop Galante. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the Deacons of the roll they will play in all of the mergers.

Youth: Youth Group has been disbanded at this time. The feeling is that we will wait until the merger takes place before we try to start it up again. \$1,006.00 was collected for the Souper Bowl Collection.

Evangelization/Ecumenical: We have three candidates who will be welcomed into the church at the Easter Vigil. On Sunday, March 1st, they will attend the Rite of Election ceremony at St. Agnes Church in Blackwood.

Fund Raising: The profit from our TV Raffle was \$6,784.47. A date needs to be selected for our annual 50/50 drawing.

Liturgical: The Liturgical Committee met on February 17th. The schedule for Ash Wednesday will be as follows: Masses at 7 A.M. & 7 P.M. There will be a service and distribution of ashes at 12:15 P.M. Joe Webb will distribute ashes to the residents of Rainbow Nursing Home. Deacon Chris Nichols will assist Joe Webb with the distribution of ashes to our CCD students. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7 P.M. We will also have the Lenten Soup

Suppers from 5 – 6:30 P.M. Don & Marlene Munson will once again be in charge of these suppers. First Penance will take place on Thursday, March 12th at 7 P.M. The Parish Penance Service will be held on April 1st at 7 P.M. Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses on Palm Sunday, April 5th. Holy Week Schedule: Holy Thursday – Mass at 7 P.M.; Father Jay will select the 12 disciples; Good Friday – Service at 2 P.M.; Holy Saturday – Vigil Mass will be held at 6 P.M.; Easter Sunday – Masses at 8, 10 and 11:30 A.M. The church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday, April 11 at 9 A.M. Blessing of food baskets will be at Noon on April 11th. First Communion will be held on Saturday, April 25th at 10 A.M. Confirmation will take place on Friday, May 1st at 7 P.M. with Bishop Galante presiding. Ascension Thursday is May 21st.

Maintenance: No report

Publicity: No report

Religious Education: First Communion parents meeting will be held on February 26th at 7 P.M. in the church. Confirmation retreat will be held on Saturday, March 7th at St. Mary's from 9:30 A.M. until 3 P.M. Students from the four merging parishes will attend. There will be approximately 55 students and 10 adult volunteers. First Penance is schedule for Thursday, March 12th at 7 P.M. We have 23 students receiving. Practice for the students will be on Wednesday, March 11th from 4:30 – 5:30 P.M. at the church. First Communion will be on Saturday, April 25th at 10 A.M. Practice will be on Friday, April 24th from 4:30 – 5:30 P.M. in the church. There will be no CCD classes held on Sunday, April 12th and Wednesday, April 15th. Confirmation will take place on Friday, May 1st at 7 P.M. Bishop Galante will be confirming our students. We have 20 students receiving. Practice will be on Thursday, April 30th at 7 P.M. in the church. Our last classes for the 2008 -2009 CCD year will be on Sunday, April 26th for 7th and 8th grade and Wednesday, April 29th at Olivet School for Grades K – 6.

COMMENTS FROM FATHER:

There will be a Unity Hymn Sing at St. Teresa's on Friday, February 20th. It will include a combination of singing and reflection. Parishioners from the four merging parishes are invited to attend.

There will be a core team meeting on Tuesday, February 24th. There is some confusion among parishioners regarding the merger. A change in conveners has temporarily set things back. After this meeting, Father Goyette, newly appointed co-convenor, wants to meet with Father Jay.

Combined CCD classes for next year have yet to be determined. A decision regarding the use of Olivet School must be made by June 1st, so at this point we are assuming that things will continue as they have been in past years.

There is no anticipated change to our Mass schedule at this time.

Closing prayer was led by Father Jay, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.

Next meeting – Thursday, March 19; 6:30PM in the rectory.