

St. Raphael Parish Council Meeting: January 12, 2021

Attendance: Fr. Dan Bachner, Fr. Jose “MM” Cerna, Pete Makris, Kate Helm, Dan Koys, Dennis Kiraly, Sue Sullivan, Jenn Pfundstein, Bob Baron, Paul Betten, Marian Johnston, Andy Blank, Joy Brackett, and Lacy Cortez

Absent: Jim Shannon

- I. Opening Prayer: Dan Koys
- II. Old Business
 - A. Fr. Dan will speak to Deacon Kurt about getting a new linking member from the Adult Faith Formation Commission.
 - B. December meeting minutes were approved and posted.
- III. Pastor’s Report (Fr. Dan Bachner reporting)
 - A. Planning for Lenten Activities
 1. Masses:
 - a) There will be no 6:15 am Mass this Lent because so many people are working from home and not commuting.
 - b) We will have 8:30 am Mass Monday through Saturday.
 - c) We will have 12:00 noon Mass Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
 - d) W will have a 5:00 pm Mass on Tuesday along with a novena to Our Lady of Sorrows.
 2. We will hold an online consecration to St. Joseph for men and women.
 3. Religious Education is planning a retreat.
 - B. Activities that we will not undertake this year because of COVID-19:
 1. Parish mission.
 2. Fish Fry.
- IV. Commission Report Highlights
 - A. Liturgical Life Commission (Sue Sullivan reporting)
 1. The LLC evaluated the Christmas liturgies:
 - a) The consensus was that the liturgies went well.
 - b) We had 4,500 views of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.
 2. The LLC’s focus going forward will be on how to get people back to church (when COVID-19 conditions are safe).
 - B. Adult Faith Formation (Andy Blank reporting)
 1. RCIA is doing well on Zoom.
 2. CREEDS has 87 people attending via Zoom.
 3. An Advent video was well received.
 4. The AFF commission is leading the consecration to St. Joseph activities.
 - C. Finance (Dennis Kiraly reporting)
 1. Through December, the Sunday collection year-to-date is \$108,000 under expectation. This is 90% of the year-to-date expectation.
 2. The Christmas collection was 75% of the expectation.
 3. All of our parish departments (ministries) are under their respective expense budgets for the first six months of the fiscal year.
 4. The \$500,000 PPP loan has been forgiven.
 5. The parish will apply for a new PPP loan, assuming that we are eligible for this new round of loans.
 - D. Religious Education (Jenn Pfundstein reporting)
 1. The children made Christmas cards.
 2. First Reconciliation is scheduled for January 26, 2021.
 3. RE will continue using Zoom for instruction.
 4. When the weather is better, RE may have some outdoor meetings.

5. The parish has permission to have a day-long retreat for Confirmation candidates. We will have one retreat, and we will add another if there are enough candidates signing up.
- E. School (Fr. Dan Bachner reporting)**
1. The school is planning for a day on vocations (religious and otherwise).
 2. The school gala will be virtual this year.
 3. Each classroom has at least a 10-person wait list. Note that each classroom has less students in it this year because of COVID-19 restrictions.
 4. There have been about five COVID-19 cases reported in the school, all of whom have recovered.
 5. Bishop Hicks will attend our Catholic Schools Week activities.
- F. Service Ministry (Bob Baron reporting).**
1. The commission is being careful regarding COVID-19.
 2. The Christmas Sharing event went well.
 3. The Bucket Brigade for cleaning supplies will use brown bags this year instead of buckets.
 4. There will be a Eucharistic procession from Benet Academy to Saints Peter and Paul.
- G. Pastoral Care (Paul Betten reporting)**
1. Pastoral Care ministers are being very careful about COVID-19.
 2. The Stephen Ministry lost one of its ministers because they moved away. One of their care receivers dropped out of the ministry because that person wanted professional care.
 3. Extraordinary ministers are bringing Holy Communion to home-bound people. The Eucharist is given outside the person's door.
- H. Staff (Marian Johnston reporting)**
1. Marian said that Fr. Dan covered everything in his pastor's report.
- I. Young Adult (Andy Blank reporting)**
1. Zoom meetings are being held every other Friday for a study on "Jesus, The Way, the Truth, and the Life."
 2. Circles is meeting every Thursday evening.
- J. Miscellaneous**
1. Dan Koys (PPC secretary) asked in which format the PPC would like him to send out the PPC minutes. The council wanted pdf.
 2. Pete Markis reported that he is ready to be the parish's representative for the diocese's Deanery meetings.
- V. New Business**
- A. COVID-19 Impact**
1. The Joliet Diocese has no new updates.
 2. During this COVID-related pause in parish activities, the parish staff is looking at what we should and should not be doing once COVID is more under control.
- B. Bringing People Back**
1. The Liturgical Life Commission thinks that the key will be focusing on reception of the Eucharist within a community setting.
- C. Miscellaneous**
1. The number on people receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation has returned to normal.
 2. The two seminarians at the parish are doing a good job helping out in the parish.
- VI. Closing Prayer: Fr. MM**