

# St. John Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2024

1. Opening Prayer – Our Father

2. Committee Reports

CCD & Religious Education (Chris Wibbenmeyer)

- *Starting in Oct. 2024 preschool religion classes will be held on Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15. This is due to a new Archdiocesan policy stating that there can be no religious education programs held during mass times at the same church.*
- *With preschool religion taking place before Mass, they would like to bring Children’s Liturgy of the Word back and have it during the 10:30 am Mass. This would be for students in grades 1-3 or 1-4. Specifics are yet to be determined.*
- *Catechist In-Service was held on Wed. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The in-service theme was “Being” a Catechist vs “Working” as a Catechist. The highlights were: the vocation of a catechist, missionary discipleship, understanding the process of evangelization and discipleship.*
- *A group study on The Process of Evangelization and Discipleship will be held on Monday evenings during Lent. All catechists in our Family of Parishes will be invited.*
- *Discount Card Fundraiser: St. John RE would like to take over selling discount cards in the spring which youth ministry has previously done. We will start this in March 2024.*

CYO (Sara Mescher)

- *CYO basketball regular season continues until the end of January.*
- *Tournament play starts in February.*
- *The annual CYO Chili Dinner Fundraiser is planned for March 17<sup>th</sup>.*

Men’s Sodality (Marc Otte)

- *No report given*

Bereavement (Ann Everman)

- *No report given*

#### Finance (Alan Wolters)

- *Creating a separate cemetery fund and the hiring of a new church cleaner was discussed at a special meeting with Alan Wolters, Howie Heitkamp, Mitch Thobe, and Greg Wolters on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. More info about the decisions is included in the New Business update.*

#### Maintenance & Grounds (Kelly/Frank Evers)

- *Continuing to watch how the roof is holding up this winter. Frank will be coming to our March parish council meeting to discuss potential future maintenance projects.*

#### Cemetery (Randy Wolters)

- *Increased annual dues by \$5/person or \$10/couple. Dues have not been increased in a decade plus and maintenance fees continue to increase.*
- *A letter was sent out to all parishioners informing them of the increase and reminder to pay.*
- *They are allowing a 5 year catch-up for those who have not been paying, to allow them to get to current.*
- *Cemetery markers were placed along driveway to help identify the Section & Row.*
- *Cemetery Online Database Search is in progress. This online search will help identify location of plots. It will include a picture of the headstone. It is close to being available online.*
- *Parish council suggested best way to inform the parishioners is using social media along with the bulletin.*

#### Ladies Sodality (Kelly Nieberding)

- *Invitations to the Winter Social were just sent out. It will be held February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Legion. There will be raffle items and a few giveaways.*
- *Voting for the new Vice President and Treasurer will be held at the Winter Social.*

### 3. New Business:

- a. Unified Pastoral Council is currently collecting bylaws from each parish to aid in drafting the constitution. Sue Bruns and Corey Ahrens are leading this on behalf of the 5 Marion parishes. St. John parish council members review the draft bylaws and had no comments. This was communicated to Sue Bruns. The Unified Parish Council's next meeting will be February 8<sup>th</sup>.

- b. Christ Our Light Family of Parishes will be doing a new parish directory for all 8 parishes. Pictures will be taken in Summer of 2024 at St. Augustine, Holy Redeemer or the Maria Stein Shrine. The plan is to have the book available in 2025. They are asking for volunteers for this large project. Parish council questioned whether this will be posted in the bulletin? We feel it would be beneficial to help get volunteers, unless a committee of volunteers has already been formed.
- c. Renee Schlater has left the cleaning of the church position. Carol Stucke has taken her place.
- d. Cemetery Bank Account – Mitch informed the council of the state law requiring two different bank accounts for the cemetery funds. One fund is for any emergency that may arise and is required to be \$50,000. The second fund is for paying cemetery expenses and is required to be \$25,000. Explained how he, Alan Wolters, Howie Heitkamp and Greg Wolters met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss and make recommendations on how to proceed.
  - The recommendation is to move funds over to the accounts equally over a three-year period. For example, move \$16,667 in 2024, again in 2025, and a final time in 2026. This will get the account to the \$50,000 required by the state.
  - In regard to the \$25,000, the cemetery dues collected each year will be deposited into this account for expenses.
- e. Discussed budget for Cemetery Committee to do capital improvements to the cemetery. All agreed \$10,000/year for budget. Alan Wolters will be communicating this to the Cemetery Committee.

#### 4. Old Business:

- a. Music Director Position
  - Liz gave an update on discussion with Nick Wilker. There have been no interest in a part-time position. Nick is working on a job description for a full-time position which would include additional duties. There has been interest if it were full-time. The position is still advertised in the bulletin.
- b. Business Manager Update
  - Learned the position may combine St. John and Holy Redeemer BM positions together to make it full-time with benefits. The position has been posted in the bulletin. Is there any update on any potential candidates for full time?
- c. Window project is complete. Soffit will be painted in the Spring/Summer 2024.
- d. Potential upcoming maintenance projects:

- Roof – Frank Evers suggested waiting to see how it holds up thru the winter months. Current roof was installed in 1992.
- Frank Evers will be attending the March parish council meeting to update us on projects.

5. Next Meeting – 3-18-24 @ 8pm in the Rectory Basement

6. Closing Prayer – Hail Mary