**Church of St Patrick**

**Parish Council**

**Meeting October 15, 2020**

Members present: Father Kuss, Roseanne Strand, Susan Connolly, Liz Gerlach, Tom Moses, Julie Schnell, By Zoom: Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke, Heather Bennett (Faith Formation representative), Grace Hanson, Stephen Stenbeck

**7:00 PM Call to order –** Roseanne Strand, Chair

**Prayer for St. Patrick’s –** Father Kuss

**Approved Minutes from meetings September 10, 2020**

**Parish Building & Grounds Update:**

* Marque – Marquee is ordered; permits granted; working on bids for electric hook-up. One bid for hookup from the Celtic Center to the sign came in at $5,800 which seems to be excessive. Awaiting an additional estimate / quote.
* Ionizing installation – Completed throughout the campus.
* Parish Screens Update –Infrastructure phase in the works; quotes are being reviewed.

**Parish Employees update –**Office Administration position has been filled. Deann Brandel has started this position. One applicant for the Faith Formation K-8 position has been interviewed.

**Parish Web site-** Initial presentation was a disappointment due to input from the Parish office. Information will be reviewed, repaired and resubmitted.

**Faith Formation kick-off with outdoor Mass & chili dinner:** Approximately 150-200 attended this Mass on October 4th at 5:00PM and feedback was positive. Families would like to have more Faith Formation masses involving young people with active participation.

**Plan MORE outdoor events for next year:** The summer monthly outdoor Eucharistic Adoration and music by the Smith family were much appreciated by parishioners. These events gave parishioners a chance for socialization while practicing safe distancing.

**Women’s Council & Guilds:** Jennifer Gillsent an update to Roseanne and Father Kuss concerning their approach during the pandemic:

* Most guilds have decided to take at least the fall off; one guild has elected to take the school year off due to the extra workload of at-home schooling. Guilds will not be able to host First Friday Masses. They have also decided to give Guild / Women’s Council members the option to pay dues, but it will not be required.
* Women’s Council has approximately $5,000 they would like to donate and they are looking for suggestions. Previously, they had purchased items needed within St. Pat’s. They are now wondering if there is some way to help those who are in need due to the pandemic – possibly through a social justice fund. Suggestions from the council included:
* St Patrick’s has a foster mom with 3 boys under the age of two – can we help her?
* Father Kuss does receive calls asking if St. Patrick’s has a food pantry. Considering the holidays and cold weather ahead are we aware of any immediate needs?
* Consider donation of grocery store certificates for pool of people in need.
* Reach out to VEAP.

**Prayer Line:**  Separate suggestion: Would the Women’s Council/Guilds or elderly volunteers (65 and older) be available and willing to contact parishioners who are unable to leave home to talk, pray or possibly say the Rosary with them.

**Holiday Masses**: Father Kuss will offer more masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; tentatively planning Christmas Eve services at 4 pm, 7pm and 10pm; Christmas Day Mass times have not yet been determined.

Masses will be held in main church and the Mahon Center. The Celtic Center will not be used as the overflow area. Father Kuss plans to have two separate masses concurrently to accommodate the overflow for Christmas Eve. The details have not yet been completed.

**Proposal and challenge by Liz Gerlach:** Liz provided a short script that Parish Council members might seek out and greet visitors/new members or other members that we may not personally know but see at Mass. The Council should bring experiences and feedback to next Parish Council meeting as this will be an agenda item. The discussion also turned to an organized way of outreach which would entail a staff member. Father Kuss expressed the necessity of Parish Life committee involving parishioners along with a staff member. Council members wanting to participate or with suggestions of names for this committee should contact Father Kuss or Roseanne.

**Update e-mail/contact list of Parishioners:** Along with updating technology, parishioner information needs to be updated. Bill and Deann will be working together to get this information in order. Julie and Liz will do research to find the lists used during the initial outreach efforts at the beginning of the pandemic and forward this information to Bill.

**Recent Update from Chancellor**: Those 65 and over are NOT to distribute communion.

**CEND presentation**: Frank Kiesner, a parishioner of St. Patrick’s, presented information to the Council concerning his latest project which will run from a St. Patrick’s office - Center for Evangelization & Discipleship. CEND is an organization started up over the last twelve months to help all young adults find their home in a Catholic parish. These efforts assist parishes to retain and involve new members to the Catholic faith by means of providing connections through many different communications, a digital hub for Twin Cities Catholics. There will be kickoff (open house) in November. Detail information will be found in a future Parish bulletin. Hand-outs were provided with addition information.

Adjournment: 8:15PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2020

Respectfully submitted by Susan Connolly and Roseanne Strand