

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
Minutes
October 14, 2008
7:00 pm

Opening Prayer and Reflection: Janice Mead – Prayer for Devoted Laity in the Church. (Prayer assignment for November: John Gill)

Presided by: Fr. Raymond Goodwin

Present: John Gill, Mary Belmore, Janice Mead, Tom Tellier, Jo Dascanio, Mary Sczymzak, Rolande Parent, Rebecca Edwards, Sister Yvonne Millman

Absent: Deacon Nick CaraDonna; Keith Coveney

Ministries: Bob Bazinet (Stewardship)

September minutes: Approved with two corrections – correct the spelling of Jo Dascanio's last name and correct the date of the Cluster meeting at St James from November 10th to the 16th.

Received Correspondence, etc. – John distributed the Parish Council Membership Contact Information to attendees. He will reprint as the copier cut off the last digits of alternate phone numbers.

Chairperson Comments – John Gill

- Photos and biographies for website – John took pictures of the Council members who did not have pictures on the web site and reminded those who do not have biographies to send them to Deacon Nick.
- Date reminders:
 - Cluster meeting for all parishes at St. James, Nov 16. Fr. Ray encouraged everyone from the Council to attend the meeting.
 - The December 9th Parish Council meeting agenda will include meeting with Deacon Tony Surozenski to talk about the qualities we would like to see in Deacon Nick's replacement for spiritual ministry.
 - Fr. Ray reminded everyone about the Christmas Fair on November 15th.

New Action items

- None

Ministry Updates:

- Religious Education – Shirley Russo
 - 300 students currently enrolled, 100 volunteers
 - 2 children are enrolled in RCIA. Shirley and Sister explained that the RCIA program is the same for children and adults.
 - The board members discussed a complaint received about having a Pro-life theme at the First Eucharist Masses and decided against it.
 - The revised Religious Ed Handbook was sent home with students
 - Parents were re-educated about the policy of drop-off and pick-up inside the church, not in the parking lot.

- Children in Grades 3-8 will actively participate in a 10 a.m. Mass each month, doing such as readings, processions, etc.
- Events –
 - The Father/Daughter dance for grades 1-8 is being planned, it will be a Cluster event this years
 - The Pot Luck Supper is to highlight religious education in our parish. It is the diocesan Religious Education Week. It is for the parish not only for volunteers.
- October was the month of the Rosary. Various committees sought members to lead the Rosary before/after the weekend Masses. Three Board Members are leading the Rosary on October 11th.
- A donation was used to provide catechists with a one year subscription to the Catechist Magazine
- Stewardship – Bob Bazinet
 - October 5 – Stewardship hosted the blessing of animals.
 - Tithing: A note will be put in the bulletin about tithing requests
- Finance – No report
- Cluster – Fr. Ray
 - No report. There will be a cluster meeting for all parishes at St. James November 16th.

Council discussions:

- Achievement Award – Mary Belmore
 - Lots of positive feedback was received
 - Recommendations for 2009 from Mary and Keith:
 - Clarify scope of award in announcements
 - Plan timeline and announcement (when and where, bulletin only or other venues)
 - Tie candidate questions in with the scope
 - Create a sub-committee who will report back to the Parish Council
 - Put status updates in the bulletin
 - Make applications more widely available
- What we seek in Deacon Nick's successor – prepare for Deacon Tony's meeting with the Council on December 9th
 - St. Mary's would be looking for a 12 hour a week position for Liturgical Ministry only, not Associate Pastor. Deacon is starting to train and transition some of his non-liturgical duties to parishioners.
 - Members discussed looking for a Deacon who would promote Youth Ministry and someone who would connect with young adults and the 20-30 year olds. Fr. Ray noted that Youth Ministry is included in Religious Education.
 - Deacon's current Liturgical responsibilities include preaching (not all Deacons are qualified to preach); training and coordinating altar servers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers; visiting the homebound; interviewing new parishioners; attending wakes and funerals; representing St. Mary's at the cluster meetings; RCIA.
 - Fr. Ray would like to see someone who has a good sense of hospitality.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 11th, 7:00 p.m. **Opening Prayer:** John Gill

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Mead, Parish Council Secretary