

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Reflection: Tom Tellier – Prayer of New Beginnings (Prayer assignment for February: Rolande Parent)

Presided by: Fr. Raymond Goodwin

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

Absent: Keith Coveney,

Ministries: Deb Chouinard (Religious Ed), Helen Rehberg (Stewardship)

December minutes: Approved

Received Correspondence, etc. - None

Chairperson Comments – John Gill

- Two Parish Council member biographies are still needed for the website.

Ministry Updates:

Children’s Liturgy: There will be meetings after the 10 a.m. Mass on January 25th and February 1st for the eight volunteers and anyone else interested. Once they complete their paper work and the CORI check and class is completed, they will be put on the schedule.

Religious Education – Deb Chouinard

- The board did not meet in December
- Grade Level Masses (students share in the ministries): The Grade 7 Mass was held on December 14, and the Grade 4 Mass is scheduled for January 18th.
- The Epiphany Pageant, presented by students in grades Pre-K to Grade 5, was held on January 4th.
- Snow storms required class cancellations in December and January so far this school year.
- Students in Grades 6-8 wishing to participate in the February 7th “Heroes” program sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry, must sign up by February 1st. The program begins with Mass at 4:30 followed by music and other activities.
- Students in Grade 9 & 10 will be participating in a 24 hour fast January 23 - 24 in the parish hall.
- Faith Night, for students in grades 9 - 12 will be held at the DCU Center on February 28th. The night will include ice hockey and a rock concert by “Brother’s Keeper.”

- The Mardi Gras Supper is being planned.

Stewardship – Helen Rehberg

- The monthly meeting was rescheduled to January 21st due to snow.

Finance – Deacon Nick

- We are operating in the black
- St. Mary's did well by opting not to join the oil consortium. We did not lock in at an high oil price and due to the drop in the prices, our last fill was \$1.79/gallon.
- Nearly \$20,000 was collected at Christmas.
- The parish needs to collect \$6,500/week to keep up with expenses.
- Harper's Payroll service out of Worcester was contract at \$1200/year. The additional expense over keeping it in house was determined to be worthwhile.
- The next focus will be on electronic auto-payment of parishioner's weekly offerings.

Cluster – Fr. Ray

- Rev. Dan Mulcahey was introduced at the January 12th meeting at St. James. He will lead this year's Grafton Cluster Parish Lenten Mission on March 1 - 3. Parishioners will be involved in a more youth/family oriented program, with volunteers sharing scripts to present the Living Stations (5 each night). He will meet with each parish prior to the Mission. The second night will include Reconciliation with a simple confession. The Lenten Mission should be seen as a time for us to be nurtured.

Council discussion:

- Parish Achievement Award
 - Mary Belmore has volunteered to lead this year's award committee. Rolande Parent and Deb Chouinard volunteered to help. Work will need to be done to raise funds. Students can be involved in the fund raising by participating in events such as car washes. Car washes held at Savers Bank are pretty successful. The emphasis for the award will be on the stewardship dynamic and how the students are living their faith. "Stewardship, not scholarship."
- Fund for replacement of parish organ
 - Our organ, purchased in the 1970's uses old vacuum tube technology and has been reported by Joan V. and Ed L. to cut out. Father would like to start a fund to replace the organ. The economic timing is not great, but there are opportunities out there to buy organs from parishes that are closing.
 - The Council decided to form a Music Advisory Sub-Committee prior to attempting to raise funds. The purpose of this committee will be to provide feedback to the Director of Music on areas of improvement, to assist the parish secure a cantor, and to work on a plan for replacing the organ. Sub-Committee Members: John Gill, Mary Szymczak, Janice Mead, Helen Rehberg.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10th, 7:00 p.m. **Opening Prayer:** Rolande Parent

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Mead, Parish Council Secretary