**St. John’s Parish Council Meeting Minutes
St. John’s Parish Hall – October 20, 2022
7:30 PM**

Council Members Present – Dave Mack, John Conlon, Tripp Stroud, Alex Stanek, and Charlie McCall (virtual)

Other’s Present – Fr. Garrett Kau, Meg Aspinwall, and Barb Ferguson

Excused – Lori Wade

Fr. Garrett opened the meeting with a prayer.

Dave asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 21st meeting. Tripp Stroud made a motion to approve the minutes. John Conlon seconded. Motion carried.

**Religious Ed and Youth Ministry** – Meg

* Meg reported that Family Adoration will be November 12th at St. John’s. Will provide opportunity for families to learn how to pray together as a family.
* Meg has been getting some push-back from parents about bringing their kids to Mass, especially during a Sacramental year. Prayers needed.

**Liturgy** – Lori (via email prior to the meeting)

* Lori Wade reported that Teresa has been purchasing flowers for fall decorating. When she is done with that, there may be new expenses that we haven’t had before.
* Fr. said he liked what Theresa and her crew did last year.
* He also said he is a big fan of poinsettias and other kinds of flowers that accentuate, but not upstage the Liturgical decorations.
* He would like Christmas decorations be put up Sunday, Dec. 18th.
* Tripp said he’s planning on setting up an activity for families on Dec. 18th to compliment the decorating activity.

**Education** – Alex

* Grandparents Day is October 21st
* Holiday Greenery Sale is starting
* PTC – November 9-10
* Thanksgiving Field Trip – Lake Waubesa, November 14th for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders
* 3K starting in January
* Student Teacher starting October 24

**Finance** – John

* John Conlon – Discussed anticipated projects for the Spring of 2023 – The retention pond, church steeple and insulating areas of the church. Discussed that the estimates would no longer be valid and would most likely be considerably higher now.
* A letter should be sent to parishioners regarding the Capital Campaign projects completed, available funds, and projects planned for 2023.
* Projects still needed to be done, repainting the church inside and out, floor coverings, and the parking lot. Prioritize the projects and complete as many as we can until the money runs out.

**Parish Life and Stewardship** – Tripp

* Tripp mentioned that he and Michael discussed having some musical performances and Friday Fellowship events. Some possibilities include sledding, basketball game, Trivia night (Meg know a guy, Pat, who is amazing at this.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Charlie

* Several complaints were made concerning the bad quality of mowing at the cemetery. Ralph had talked to James about the concerns and there have been better results.
* Still waiting to hear back on the final quotes for the air conditioner. I will have quotes at next meeting.
* Have light bulbs to be recycled in Madison and need to purchase more for the church as we are almost out.
* Pump needs to be removed shortly from the drainage pond, I will coordinate.
* Should we have a virtual option for these meetings in case one of us is not able to attend? Flu is on the rise and I would hate for one of us to be quarantined and have to miss meeting. Dave Mack says this is not a problem and he set up Zoom meeting for tonight for Charlie McCall.

**Old Business –**

* Budget Deficit Update – We are not meeting our goals to reduce the deficit. Finance Council is working with Jill McNally (Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development) on a fundraising process to help raise money. The Finance Council had a special meeting with her on Oct. 12th about the Budget Deficit. A summary from Mary Lynn Johnson reported there are 4 different avenues for possibly tackling the deficit.

1. Endowment (hopefully borrowing now against this account to keep moving forward, usually you can only take the interest from the account but need to look at amending the endowment fund so we can take from the principal with the intent to pay that back)

2. Offertory program – tweaking this a bit – starting with meeting personally with parishioners (mainly biggest givers) and then do a mailing to the rest to get this boosted more.

3. Estate Planning – implementing this to ask parishioners to think about putting the church in their will.

4. Starting another Capital Campaign again after the other one is finished.

There was much discussion about the school endowment fund, the purpose of the endowment fund, and when it should be used. Meg and Barb will do a thorough search at St. John’s rectory for any information on who has contributed to the endowment since its inception.

* Outreach for families – Barb made contact with Melissa Kelley who started up and ran a highly successful and fruitful outreach program for families at another parish. Unanimous consent of council members to invite Melissa to the next meeting to present and discuss creating such a ministry here at Saint John’s.

**New Business –**

* Into the Deep – Discussion on the 8 key takeaways, 30 pastorates

Nov. 7 – Map with pastorates will be available to the public. Will review at the next meeting.

Jan. 7 – Town Hall with Bishop Hying at St. Joes in Baraboo. More info coming.

In March – Find out who’s running the pastorates

July – Changes go into effect

Mass times are subject to change

* November 13 **–** KC Pancake Breakfast After Church

**Next Meeting – Nov. 17th – 7:30 PM**

**Adjournment** – 9:02 John Conlon made a motion to adjourn. Tripp Stroud seconded.