

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church
1003 N Tyler St
Little Rock, AR 72205
February 4, 2020

1. Call to Order – 12:15 PM

2. Opening prayer

Members Present: Fr John Marconi, Shannon Callahan, Clark Wilkinson, Nancy Stuart, Thomas Lipham, Al Malzewski,

Guests Present: Shelley Tienken, Susej Thompson, Susie Williams, Shona Terrell, Cindy Stabnick, Wendy Floriani, Stacey Matchett

3. Fr John started the meeting with a reading from the Gospel.

4. November meeting minutes approved.

5. Report of Committees/Commissions:

A. Finance & Administration – YTD actual collections are down to budgeted collections \$707k to \$812k. Expenses are also down, but not enough to compensate the difference. The church did receive a bequest from an estate, which brought our YTD income over expense to \$65k. We are only spending on expenses that are necessary and trying to find cheaper alternatives while doing so. The drop in giving at Holy Souls is reflective of what is going on nationwide with other churches. We are in our second year of the Capital Campaign. Of the parish membership, 38% (545 households) have pledged \$2.8 million. To date we have received almost \$1.9 million, which includes over \$50k received in interest. Outstanding pledges are \$1.1 million. Thus far this fiscal year there are only two months in which we've received our budgeted collections (October, January).

B. Buildings & Grounds Committee – B&G Committee met last week and discussed the school renovation. The costs have risen from the initial estimate. The original plan is no longer doable because it is no longer within budgeted amounts and we don't want to incur loans. The discussion is now what can be done with the money available—PreK, STEM lab, other goals. From the Maintenance Fund: The work on the house of the new rectory is finished. Work remains to be done on the deck, fence, and yard, which will involve the Men's Club. A discussion took place regarding the most prudent use of Parish resources, especially in light of under budget year to date contributions. The priest moving to the former rent house opens up the current rectory to office space, meeting space, and a place for visiting priests to stay overnight. Al Malzewski inquired where the associate priests would live when they join our parish. Fr John stated they would live in the new rectory with him.

C. Faith Formation – Lenten Mission on The Eucharist on March 30, 31, April 1 at 7PM. More details forthcoming. Sunday Series is on hold at the moment, but a new leader is taking over. There are 15 candidates in the RCIA program with up to 35 participants each week. The group is now feeding themselves and no longer recruiting food. Walking with Purpose is ongoing and will end around

spring break. Planning for study next year that focuses on the women of the Bible. CYM has a service project with Birthright next week and a day of service on Feb 22. They are partnering with the Men's Club for that. Super Bowl of Caring postponed for spring to benefit Helping Hand. Confirmation mass is this weekend. The Called and Gifted will be starting up. The program is through the Catherine of Siena Institute. The goal is to build a parish of people who are aware of their charisms and are involved in the church accordingly.

D. Parish Life — No representative able to attend this time.

E. Social Concerns—The weekend of March 28-29 there will be a second collection for the One Church initiative of the diocese. This year's partner is Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg. They have bought a former Firestone store and made it into their church building and parish hall. New flooring, other renovations and a playground are their goals along with eliminating their \$160k mortgage. Next month the committee will have a list of grant invitees. There was discussion of re-evaluating the list and culling the ones who had not responded. The Corpus Christi collection is upcoming.

F. Liturgy & Worship – Susej is completing the Lenten music plan and preparing for Easter. She has met with Fr John about ways to make mass feel more somber during the season.

6. Old Business – Fr John is working on a Capital Campaign update letter to the parish. Nancy Stuart was voted in as vice president of the council.
7. Pastoral Comments – The Bishop has come up with new CASA goals for each parish. If everyone in the parish did their part then we'd have no problem reaching our goal. He is not as concerned with the monetary goal as he is with number of families contributing. He has asked other priests to come help with reconciliation during Lent. We will try to post a reconciliation schedule of churches in the LR area. The Hillcrest Lenten Series is starting up with him speaking at the first one (Feb 28) at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church. The theme of this year's series is surrender.
8. Next Parish Council Meeting—March 10th at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM

Stacey Matchett, Reporting Secretary