

St. George Parish Council Meeting Minutes
St. George CLC
September 13, 2022 7:00pm

Chris Schomaker called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Silent roll was taken and the following members were present: Fr. Gene Neff, Chris Schomaker (Chairperson), Joyce Schomaker, Judy Winkeler, Janice Wiegmann, Dana Woods, Kassie Hund, Ted Winkeler, Matt Olerich (guest speaker).

Fr. Neff opened the meeting with prayer.

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Janice motioned to approve minutes as presented and Joyce second, a vote was taken and motion carried to approve the May 25, 2022 minutes as presented.

Guest speaker, Matt Olerich, spoke regarding the annual Church Picnic. He stated the picnic did well financially but more should be done as far as marketing on social media and other free or inexpensive outlets. Thursday night only three people showed up to help set up and Sunday morning clean up only about seven people were present for that – more communication about needing help. There was discussion about going to only carryout to help with staffing shortages. Matt and Chris will stay in touch about updates. Matt also stated how important it is to support our Life Teen program. (Matt did not stay for the rest of the meeting)

Commission Reports

Finance/Building & Grounds: Report was given by Ted Winkeler - Annual report is down \$40K for fiscal year. Projecting a \$70K deficit. Collections remaining the same but expenses have increased. Will promote auto deduct which has additional options for contributing. Picnic went very well this year. They met with Life Teen and not sure how much they will be able to financially support in the upcoming year. St. George and St. Mary finance councils will meet to discuss how to financially cover PSR now that is it combined. Discussion about a Cosmic Bingo in November to raise more money. Marvin has been cleaning headstones. Larry is waiting to hear back on speakers for the PA system in church. Leaks in the tower but bid was more than anticipated so will seek other vendors. Cut four trees that were diseased which cost \$4700. Aware of some limb issues on Ash Street, which the city will take care of. Still waiting to hear about bid for gym floor to be refinished. Larry is checking into a basement window that may need replaced. Since only one Mass, it may be more cost effective to change to programmable thermostats in church.

Christian Formation & Education: No report at this time.

Evangelization & Hospitality Outreach: Report given by Joyce Schomaker – Clinton Manor would like a priest or deacon to visit periodically. Joyce also spoke with Albers/Damiansville about having a service there or something. Collette brings communion but that is currently all. Fr. Neff was going but with his retirement and shortage, no one has picked that up. Fr. Neff discussed that we need to consider more prayer services and asked if anyone was trained to have a 'Priestless Sunday'. No one present was aware of any individual that was trained. Fr. explained laity can facilitate a prayer service and with the shortages, that is the reality of our future. Janice will check with Marlene Fridley about training and see where to start with training and if we can get something started at Clinton Manor. There was discussion about usher training, having greeters at the doors and it was agreed some organization and training would be beneficial.

Family Life and Social Activities: Report given by Judy Winkeler – There will be refreshments after Mass on 9/18/2022 after the blessing of the Guardian Angel statue. They are working on the Parish Census. Bob is setting up so it can be done on the website or phone but paper will still be an option. They will be asking everyone, not just new parishioners, to fill out and update starting in about 2-3 weeks. New people do not feel welcome. They are focusing on just the new Catholics that register with the town to make it more inviting and personal.

Christian Services/Social Justice: Report given by Janice - Sister Parish: Padre Mynor, the paster for St. Mary's sister parish in Guatemala, is visiting the US October 13 – 17. He will likely want to visit the PSR class. Shelly Sands said she left a message for Deacon Mote. Stephanie Haar is aware of this; she told me she put it on their calendar. Padre Celestino sent a report with some pictures to Shelly Sands. The report was also sent to our parish office. Our donations from December 2021 and January – May 2022 totaled \$587. The June amount of \$503 will be on the next report. Just Faith Programs: I am participating in the virtual 8-week Just Faith Program “*Faith & Poverty: A Solidarity Response*” on Wednesdays from 10 am – noon. The Just Faith Program titled “*Faith & Racial Healing*” is scheduled for 8 weeks online on Tuesday starting September 13 at 6:30 pm. Facilitators are Cora Hughes and Carolyn Riddle. Registration information can be found at <https://justfaith.org/faith-and-racial-healing-st-louis-fall-2022-small-group/>. Retreat at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows: *Journey to Justice Retreat: Catholic Reflections on Our Call to Address Racial Inequity* will be held Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9:00 am – 3 pm at the Visitors Center. The retreat is co-sponsored by National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, the Racial Equity and Justice Committee of the Diocese of Belleville, and the Diocese of Belleville Catholic Campaign for Human Development Committee, Diocese of Belleville. Co-presenter is Fr. Mark Dean, OMI. The retreat will follow the Journey to Justice Guide provided by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The cost is \$15 and includes breakfast and lunch. Mater Dei (from Jill Tasker): On Wednesday October 21, Bishop McGovern will celebrate mass at St. Mary's in Mount Vernon at 8:30 am followed by a brunch to discuss the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship. Representatives from Empower IL will be on hand to answer questions. New staff members: Jordan Proffitt, band director; Justine Harre, Social Studies Department; Sue Darr and Helen Essenpries, co-teaching the Certified Nursing Assistant program. A new chapter of FFA headed by Erika Knolhoff was started. The first meeting was last Thursday, September 8th. They've asked the Clinton County Farm Bureau for funding. The tunnel abatement work to remove the asbestos that is under the school should be completed by the beginning of October. A Tackle the Hunger Challenge was completed with Central High school; both schools brought in over 9,000 pounds of canned goods for the St. Louis area. Diocesan accreditation was renewed for the next 5 years as well as Illinois High School Accreditation. Homecoming Week will be October 3-8, with the parade on Wednesday evening October 5 at 6:00pm. Mr. Litteken and Fr. Jim Buerster from Germantown/Bartelso will be honored, and Fr. Dale Maxfield will be remembered by the diocesan Knights of Columbus at the Southern Friendship Dinner on Oct.1 at St. Mary's Carlyle. On September 28, Bishop McGovern will celebrate mass at the Cathedral with the freshman classes from all three Belleville Diocese Catholic High Schools attending. Calendar Drive begins Oct. 11. Respect Life: Mary Fleming is the Coordinator for the Respect Life Ministry and the Program Director for Project Rachel. On Sunday October 2 Respect Life will hold a Life Chain for an hour of peaceful and prayerful witness for the unborn. The event will be held along Highway 159 in Fairview Heights between St. Clair Square mall and Fazoli's. Signs will be available in Hobby Lobby. Food Pantry: No report. Knights of Columbus: No report.

Youth Ministry/Social Media Outreach: Report given by Kassie – Camp was amazing with all the new kids and they were great! They all are ready to dive in and help. Currently ~35 kids. A core group is coming to Mass, helping with PSR, doing Praise and Worship, and really bonding. Started a new series on the Mass. Usually the boys and girls meet separate but they are trying something new with all together then break off into their groups. Cookie sales are coming up with baking in November. They will be at the doors greeting when the Bishop is here for Mass on 9/18/22.

Communication: Report given by Chris – no update.

Liturgy & Worship: Report given by Fr. Neff – There is a need for a stewardship program explaining to the people that participation is needed to grow in faith and love. There was success with the Capital Campaign because of the personal contact and communication about what was going to be done with the funds raised from that. Both parishes have a deficit in the budget which is going to be a big problem in the future. More people, especially younger, need to get involved. The Bishop is coming this Sunday, 9/18/22, and he will talk to Fr. Neff and the Deacons.

Pastor's Report

See Liturgy & Worship/Fr. Neff above.

Old Business

See notes under Family Life and Social Activities regarding Census. Parish Council elections will be in January. We need to replace Vivian and Patrick. Kassie's term has expired. Chris will talk to the office about putting ballots in church to look for interested candidates for Parish Council (January election and a March start).

New Business

Meeting Schedule: St. George Council-November 15, 2022; January 17, 2023; March 21, 2023; May 16, 2023 all at 7pm. Chris will reach out the St. Mary about Joint meeting dates with next Joint meeting sometime in October.

The group ended in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm

11.15.22 Above meeting minutes accepted as final--DWoods

Recording secretary: Dana Woods