

**St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
February 14, 2017**

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

*We, the faithful of St. Joseph Parish, willingly accept our baptismal call to gather and Worship as a Community, to proclaim the Word of God, and to serve in the image of Jesus Christ.*

Tom Kohl called the meeting to order (St. Joseph's) at 7:01 p.m. Opening prayer led by John Sanders.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Rev. David Kelley, Rev. Timothy Brady, John Sanders, Tom Kohl, Kevin Corcoran, Tom Kane, Erin Marchlik, Stephanie Szczerba, Mary Kirk, and Tonie Vandenberg

**EXCUSED:**

Amy Brenner and Joe Nelson

**ABSENT:**

Lisa Porter and Dave Danielson

**AGENDA**

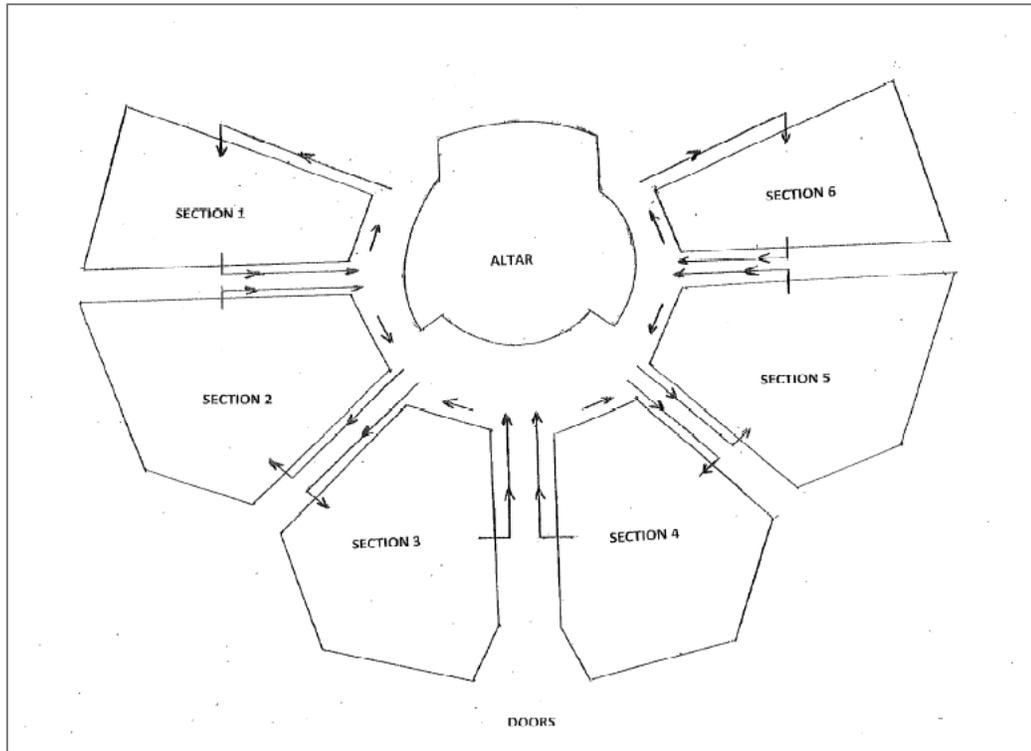
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- **January Minutes:** Approved
- **Correspondences:** No correspondences received by Father Kelley
- **Standing Committees:**
  - **Finance Council**—John shared that we have a very solid and positive balance sheet. We are approaching \$11M. He also noted that we are achieving our goals of bolstering savings and reducing debt. Our budget variance is at 2%. The weekly offertory is down slightly. However, our budget forecast is within one point of forecast. Expenses are meeting target. Based on our mortgage amortization schedule, we will owe approximately \$63,000 for our final year of payments.

Father Kelley learned that we will receive \$24,839 from the Catholic Appeal campaign. We also received a \$39,892 quarterly check from "Sustaining the Hope." Next year's goal for the Diocesan collection will be \$113,000.

We are making progress with our project to add handicapped spaces and repair the parking lots. The Town of Middletown will issue permits once we provide the name of our contractor to the them. The cost to complete both projects will be higher (approximately \$21K more), but we have leftover funds from the St. Rose project and money in our reserve funds. Work will likely be done in April or August due to Religious Education, Easter, and the Carnival and take two weeks to complete.

- **Liturgy**—Stephanie reported that the Liturgy Committee held two meetings for ushers, EMHC's, and lectors in January and February with 155 in attendance. During these meetings, Father Kelley shared the new procedures for communion. EMHC's will sign-in and select either a bowl or cup so there is more structure. Each bowl and cup is assigned a number so the EMHC will know where to stand around the altar. During the Pastoral Council meeting, Father Kelley distributed a diagram that will be included in the 2/19 bulletin (see below). The new procedure begins 2/25/17.



The Liturgy Committee would like to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of St. Joseph's. Because the actual anniversary (11/25/17) falls on the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the readings cannot be replaced. The committee would like to consider celebrating the weekend after Thanksgiving, which will also allow more families to participate.

A parishioner placed a note in the collection basket to discourage talking in the church before Mass begins. One of the Liturgy Committee members will write several phrases as reminders and will share at the next meeting. He knows a printer, who would make signs, which could be placed in the gathering space.

- **Christian Formation**—Mary updated us that Lisa reached out to her for more information about the purpose of this committee. She also shared that registration for 2017-2018 Religious Education begins on 3/1/17. A Lenten Open House is scheduled for 3/4/17. On 3/11/17, a Diocesan Catechetical Day will be held at St. Thomas More. The first “Eucharistic Retreat” for 90 communicants takes place on 3/18/17. Mary will be attending a “DRE Retreat” from 3/29/17 to 3/30/17. She and Father Brady also attended a RCIA seminar.
- **Parish and Family Life**—Kevin, along with several Knights, participated in the 2017 Lewes Polar Bear Plunge (Kevin’s 10<sup>th</sup> plunge!) on Superbowl Sunday. The Polar Bear Plunge supports Delaware Special Olympics athletes. This year, more than 3,500 “bears” plunged raising over \$900K.

The Knights will serve “Lenten” dinners at St. Joseph’s and St. Rose. The dates should be communicated in next week’s bulletin.

The first “Carnival” kick-off meeting is Thursday, February 16.

Erin announced that the committee is expanding the scope of “Parish and Family Life.” Erin, along with Joe, Kevin, and Tom Kane, will host a meeting on 3/11/17 at 10:30 a.m. inviting any interested parishioners to join the .

Erin’s also working with Jackie to “resurrect” the Facebook page with Father Kelley’s approval.

- **Social Concerns**—Tonie collected 25 bags of clothing for the migrant workers. She and Father Miguel visited with the workers (the day before it snowed) to distribute the clothing. The workers appreciated the generosity of our parishioners. In the spring, Tonie will collect clothing for the summer season.
- **Building & Maintenance**—Father Kelley provided updates about adding handicap spots and parking lot repairs during the Finance Council update.

## OLD BUSINESS

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- **Election Committee**

- Tom Kohl would like to recommend an early start for the election committee. It would be ideal to have nine members from both parishes for three year terms. We need to synchronize the term schedule; it's currently out of sync. Tom and Father Kelley suggest that we search for three new members. Father Kelley can appoint a member for a one year term to "even" the committee. If we elect three new members for the term starting in July 2018, we will have two extra members for a total of eleven elected members. However, the following year, when five terms expire, we should elect three members and will then have nine committee members.

We would like the new committee members to attend our June meeting for introductions and to gain a sense of our purpose before the next year starts. Please talk with Tom or Erin if you would like to recommend a parishioner to join the committee.

- **Amazon Smile**

- Amazon Smile is up and running! Erin received administrator access from Amazon and will work with Jackie to market the program. As an FYI, you are unable to use Amazon Smile from the Amazon app.

- **Golf Outing**

- At this time, we are not planning a 2017 golf outing.

Closing prayer led by John Sanders.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's.

Amy Brenner will lead the opening and closing prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Szczerba, Pastoral Council