



**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
APRIL 27, 2021**

**Members Present:**

Rev. Gabriel Baltus, OSB  
Mike Budd  
Susan Cassa  
Mary Beth Kerner  
Mathew Klody  
Tom Kmieciak

Bob Miller  
Mary Beth Sobolewski  
Tracy Szalek  
Andrea Uribe  
Rich Weigel  
Matt Zurek

**Absent:**

Maureen Cunningham  
Andrew Hackley  
Dave Mankowski  
Dan O'Connor  
Leanne VanGronigen  
Dick Webb

**Guests:**

Kim Clements

**I/II. OPENING**

Evening Prayer was held in Room 22 of the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m.

The Meeting began at 7:12 p.m.

November minutes were approved by Mary Beth Sobolewski and seconded by Tom Kmieciak.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**Centennial Celebration Committee**

Fr. Gabriel has asked Kim Clements, Director of Special Events, to chair the Committee that will plan for our parish Centennial Celebration, which will take place in 2024. Kim explained that beginning in January 2024, a number of parish events will take place in celebration of the centennial, and will culminate in a Mass and dinner/dance. A special logo will also be created for the centennial. Kim welcomes any ideas for the celebration, and will provide an update in the Fall.

**IV. MINISTRY AND BOARD UPDATES**

**School Board Update**

Tracy Szalek praised the efforts of the school staff and teachers in maintaining a healthy and safe environment throughout this challenging year. Only a few students tested positive for Covid during the year, but did not contract it from being at school. All safety/quarantine procedures were followed.

Tracy also reported that the School Board and PSO are currently discerning new members.

Currently, 363 students are registered for next school year, which includes 103 incoming students. Two new teachers have been hired. Although the school has a waiting list, no new classrooms will be added at this time, since we may lose students as the public schools begin to fully open.

## **Finance Update**

Susan Cassa reported that the 2021 School Auction was very successful and exceeded their budget. The other school fundraisers have also been well-received. The school's net loss was lower than expected and lower than last year.

The parish revenue of \$1.1 million has been greater than planned, and only \$100,000 under last year. The parish also received a generous donation of \$85,000. Unplanned expenses were lower than last year. Our net income is \$800,000. This includes \$460,000 from the Paycheck Protection Program loan, which is forgiven.

Revenue from commuter parking permits is down, as very few commuters are utilizing the North parking lot. However, we have given commuters the option of paying a reduced amount in order to retain their parking permit, and thus we still continue to receive some revenue.

The School is reviewing the tuition discount for parishioners, as our parishioners enjoy a larger than average tuition discount, despite the fact that many school families do not attend Mass and do not contribute to the parish offertory. The School is also considering different tuition rates for families who are "in-parish" and those who are "out-of-parish", as the "out-of-parish" rate was dropped a few years ago. We may also institute fees, such as a technology fee. Our tuition is comparable to other Catholic schools, and we have a generous discount for families with multiple children enrolled in school. Our Adopt-A-Student Program is also well-funded.

## **IV. PASTOR'S ADDRESS**

### **Church Renovation/Restoration**

Fr. Gabriel distributed an email from liturgical designer Ken Brooks, owner of St. Paul Fabricating Company, which gave the figure of \$2.1 million for the church renovation project and a list of the work that would be included in said amount. Father pointed out that one of the items on the list (remove/restore/re-install the stained glass crucifix window) may not need to be done. Other options, such as adding stained glass windows to the rear of the nave, are also optional.

Mr. Brooks also provided Father with color renderings of the possible renovation of the church interior, which will be shown first to the Art and Environment Committee.

Mr. Brooks will be present at the next Art and Environment Committee meeting, at which the Committee will present their observations on any other items that need repair in the church.

It would take a year to plan the project, and another year to raise the necessary funds. The work would take approximately 6-8 months to complete.

### **Bell Tower/Arch**

Fr. Gabriel hopes to relocate the bell tower/create a bell arch further from the church entrance, so that it would not be so loud, and so that the bells will swing. The Village of Lisle has an additional bell that they would give us, as well. This would be a separate project from those listed above, and would need to be funded by a donor. This project would cost \$182,550.

Father showed a rendering of the proposed bell tower from the Verdin Company to the Council members. Verdin would install the bells and provide the basic structure of the new arch, but we would have to supply any decorative additions.

Father reported that he recently provided information on this proposed project to the Village of Lisle for their approval.

### **Parish Staff Updates**

Our Parish Nurse/Outreach Ministries Coordinator, Sandy Razka, and her husband Deacon Gregory Razka, are moving out of state. Matt Zurek will be filling the position of Outreach Ministries Coordinator. We are still searching for a candidate for Parish Nurse.

Liturgy Coordinator Scott Fox will also be leaving the parish staff this summer. As Scott also oversees the parish website, Alex Gervacio will be taking on this responsibility.

### **Re-Opening Committee**

Fr. Gabriel explained that Bishop Hicks has requested that each parish form a Re-Opening Committee to prepare for when the Covid-related restrictions are lifted. Father is attending a webinar on this subject in the near future.

Father would also like to re-open the Adoration Chapel, at least with a limited schedule.

## **V. REMINDERS**

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in Parish Center Room 22.

## **VI. CLOSING**

The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m. Closing prayer was the Regina Caeli.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Kerner  
Recording Secretary