

St Ann's Parish Council Meeting

February 2, 2017

Members Present: Father Cliff, Kevin Bradley, Rob Stewart, Craig, Susan Muench, Victor Cross

Parish member suggestions to council members after this past Sunday's mass announcement.

- One person asked about handicapped accessibility since the handicapped parking spaces are all closest entrances that have stairs. This has been looked into before and we were told by the village that making changes to Academy Street to create handicapped spaces was prohibited by a state regulation.
- A second person asked about the facilities plan and when that would be underway.

The financial presentation that was done at the masses by Ken and Father Cliff seemed to be well received.

The facilities plan was put on hold due to budget concerns over the past year. Right now we have requests for designs out to four architecture firms. Once the renderings are received back, the steering committee will review and make recommendations. The main items that need to be addressed are the need for more class rooms and a redesign of the rectory into more usable space. The parish center will most likely have to be taken down. The basement floods and the outer walls need cables to maintain support. The interior of the church also needs updating - paint, rug, pews... It may also be beneficial to reconfigure the inside layout. Proposals are due back in March. Once the steering committee has come up with recommendations, they will be presented to the parish. A feasibility study will be required by the diocese to confirm what the parish is willing to do. This will be done by an outside organization.

Financially, the parish is sound and the savings account is at the recommended level. The facility renovations will require approximately one million dollars. This would have to come entirely from the parish. There will be no contribution from the diocese.

Moving forward is necessary to allow the parish to better serve all the programs and missions which the parishioners value. Updating our facilities will help strengthen the parish for the future.

A trip is planned for February 2nd to Our Lady of Sorrows near Binghamton. It is a similar style church and could give us ideas on how to go forward with our changes. Those attending will be members of the parish, staff and finance committee.

The parish will remain informed of the process and progress in order to keep everything transparent. The facility plan is now posted on the website and future info will also be posted.

Fundraising will need to happen first and a certain amount of cash will need to be on hand before beginning.

A plan will need to be developed for where to hold masses while the renovations are underway.

In May a local group, Ceili Rain, will hold a concert for St Ann's and our sister parishes to support the food pantry, L'arche, Brady Faith Center and Vera House. One of hte goals is to educate the communities about how the food pantry work and how many it serves. Ticket will not be sold, donations will be suggested.

The 5:30 weekday masses have not been well attended and will likely be phased out after Lent.

While Father Cliff was covering at Baldwinsville, he saw something they were doing that he would like to bring to St Ann's during Lent. It is "30 Days of Pause". This could be adjusted to "40 days" for Lent. An idea related to the reading each day could be suggested for parishioners. Something that could be put into easy practice like not using technology for a day to be more present with those around you.

There may also be a weekly class based around the book *Bad Habits of Jesus*

There will be two prayer groups meeting. One for men and one for women.

Father Cliff would also like to offer some discussion on the idea of how mind, body and spirit are connected and how taking care of you body can help your spirituality.

The next parish council meeting will be March 23rd at 6pm.