

Meeting Minutes of the Parish Council and Finance Committee.  
May 28th, 2020

Present:

Father Les Frank Marino Lynn Mara Rose Vartuli Virginia Weir Theresa Malone Ed Malone Maureen Braren Joan Sheridan Kevin Sheridan Vince Miata Hope Hirshorn Christine Green Joe Carcione

Also present from Finance Council

Andy Azzara Jim O'Neill Paula O'Neill

Absent from Parish Council : Ann Portanova, Kathy Lesta

We conducted a Zoom meeting since we could not meet in person. The main topic was how do we open the Church to public Masses given the slow / cautious recovery from the COVID-19 lockdown. Father invited the Finance council to join for their input.

We spent the better part of the meeting discussing and debating the measures St.Paul will need to take to safely reopen the Church for Mass. We are being guided by recommendations and strictures coming down from the State of Connecticut and the Bridgeport diocese.

We discussed:

- how to schedule 50 people at a time for a given Mass
- how to insure 6 feet of separation
- how to protect folks when they come up to receive the Eucharist
- what is the best way to disinfect the church between Masses
- the possibility of using a YouTube recorded Mass for parishioners reluctant to visit Church at this time.

We are planning to reopen the Church, with guidelines established by the State and the Bishop the weekend of June 13th. Father advised that details from the Diocese were to be released by June 1st. We are considering using a software program created to control and account for the people planning to attend while considering the maximum occupancy rules in place. Christine was investigating appropriate programs for this purpose. Father is planning to use the Rotunda entrance / exit only to better control the flow of people in order to limit exposure. We talked about creating tickets for entrance and having one or more ushers / volunteers at each Mass to monitor the flow of people. Father is thinking about serving the normal 4 Masses per weekend and will explore the possible use of the Parish Center to increase the amount of people that are allowed at each Mass. If the Diocese allows no more than 50 people, using the Parish Center may allow us to increase the presence to 100. This idea of using the Parish center was subsequently turned down by the Diocese. Father is planning to put the

collection basket at the Church entrance so no ushers will need to be involved with the Offertory collection. Chrstine's husband graciously agreed to provide the signage we will require.

We discussed the possibility of having Father record a weekly Mass that we can post to YouTube for those parishioners that are reluctant to participate in a public Mass at the present time.

Jim O'Neill presented an overview of the parish finances in the wake of the COVID-19 closing. For the month of April, our offertory was off about 40%. For the 3 months (March through May) we are down around 25% versus the same period last year. We have 127 families currently supporting us with online giving or mailing in their weekly envelopes versus the ~532 families we count on for financial support during normal times.

Jim also reviewed the status of the 2 capital projects underway namely; replacing the sidewalks around the church and replacing the windows in the Parish office. These two capital projects, along with a replacement of our aging HVAC system were earmarked as necessary capital projects for the 'We Stand With Christ' capital campaign successfully conducted last year.

Finally we were advised that we have a new tenant for our lower parking lot who will pay us a reasonable rent going forward.