

## St. John the Evangelist Parish

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### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Minutes

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio  
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio  
**Marie Bardswich – St. John's ABSENT**  
Sue Quackenbush – St. John's  
Barb Pineau – St. John's

Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John's  
James Murphy – St. John's  
Sheila Lapierre – St. John's  
**Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's ABSENT**

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 7th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

PRAYER We prayed a decade of the Rosary for the needs of all Parishioners.

**Following this, the PPC met to discuss the following pastoral issues:**

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Advent Giving Tree – a review
- (2) Parish Dinner

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- (3) Easter Memorial Flowers
- (4) Chrism Mass – Delegates
- (5) 2023 Financial Report for Parish
- (6) Report on Mass attendance
- (7) Parish Music Ministry
- (8) 2024 Budget – Building Issues
  - (a) Conversion of lights to LED
  - (b) East Stairway to Hall repair
  - (c) Front Stairway repair/rebuild/railing
  - (d) Furnace/Carbon Tax/Heat Pump

#### ONGOING BUSINESS:

- (9) Social Concerns, Worship, Future Planning, Youth, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation & Spirituality
- (10) Parish Financial Update

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Re: (1): All the feedback received was positive. This is a project worth repeating. Parishioners were VERY generous in their response and in their gift giving.

Re (2): There are 56 Parishioners attending the Appreciation Dinner on Friday. The food (chicken, pasta, meatballs, tossed salad and buns) has been ordered from the Caruso Club. John Terpstra will pick it up at 5pm on Friday. Sonya Arcand will make fresh cheesecake for dessert. Fr. Michael picked up all the wine today, and has obtained insurance for this parish event. We will set the hall up on Friday morning after Chit Chat. Fr. Michael will MC the event. Barb has arranged for two door prizes. Fr. Michael will supply the names (typed on cards) of all who are attending for both seating and for the door prizes.

Re (3): It was decided that donations will be requested in memory of deceased family members, as before. The Easter Sunday Mass will be offered for them. All the money donated will be given to the Hospice.

Re (4): Fr. Michael described the unique Chrism Mass that the Bishop has proposed for this year on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Every parish in the Diocese will designate one delegate to attend. That person must be able to sing in a choir, as all the delegates will form the choir at the Chrism Mass celebration in Wikwemikong on Manitoulin Island at Holy Cross Church. Fr. Michael has approached a parishioner from both St. Bernardine's in Skead and St. John the Evangelist in Garson, asking them to represent us. They are considering the offer at this point. The PPC was supportive of his choices.

Re (5): This item was deferred to later in the evening, to be discussed with the items under (8).

Re (6): Fr. Michael distributed a breakdown of the average attendance at Sunday Mass over the past 12 years. The trend has been downward over all those years, with a significant drop since the Covid pandemic. There was no discussion following.

Re (7): Fr. Michael has found a music director willing to take on that role for one of our Sunday Masses (likely the Saturday night), but is still lacking a musician. Ideally, a musician will allow us to once again form a choir at one or both of our Sunday Masses. Two names were suggested as possible musicians; Fr. Michael will follow up with those suggestions.

- Re (8):
- (a) A conversion of all the fluorescent lights in both Churches to LEDs is pending. This is fully funded by the Province, and supported by the Diocese, as a means to saving on the cost of electricity, and as a response to the phase out of fluorescent bulbs in Ontario.
  - (b) Sonya is working on repairing the cracks in the plaster in the East stairwell, and will completely refurbish and paint the walls in that entranceway.
  - (c) We are waiting to receive proposals and quotes for repairing the front stairs in order to make them safer. The proposal will also include the possibility of adding a center railing to those stairs.
  - (d) We will investigate the cost of adding a heat pump to supplement our gas heating system for the Church/Hall/Rectory. In 2023, we paid \$1,520.00 to the Carbon Tax. That is scheduled to almost triple by 2030. At this point, we are only looking for information, but it was pointed out that our furnace is getting older and will, at some point, need to be replaced. The more information we have, the better decisions we will be able to make in the future.

After this discussion, the 2023 Financial Report proposal (Item 5) was approved and will be published in this Sunday's bulletin.

Re (9): No new items were discussed.

Re (10): Everyone was satisfied with the 2023 report; nothing new to add.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 7:30pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 24th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.