

St Nicholas Parish Council Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Fr. William Hitpas. The prayer was led by Joanne Smallheer. Absent was Sherri Galante. The September 26, 2011 minutes were reviewed and accepted with minor typographical changes. **CLOSED**

Welcome Night:

- There are currently two ways to register in the parish—on-line and in person. If the registration happens in the office, Pam gives them a welcome packet and describes the parish and the activities. If the registration takes place on-line, Pam sends the information to Joanne Smallheer who contacts the family and makes a personal visit to their home with the welcome packet.
- New welcome events at the parish will now be held quarterly alternating between the 5 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. masses. This will decrease the lag time between registration and attending a welcome event. This will begin in 2012.
- Parish council members will call the new members to invite them. The Parish Council Members will also call new members to invite them to the St. Nicholas Party. **ONGOING**

St. Clare School Expansion:

- There has been discussion about expansion of the school for many years. There are many factors involved in the decision to undertake school expansion. They include:
 - All three parishes have had capital campaigns of their own.
 - New schools have been built in O’Fallon. Holy Trinity has recently rebuilt their school along with the new church.
 - Catholic school attendance is down nation-wide—St. Clare’s has decreased from 470 to 370.
- The current plan:
 - St. Nicholas and St. Clare each have \$1 million and Corpus Christi has a commensurate amount for the campaign
 - 12 new classrooms will be added and a new parking lot will be built across from the gym in between the school and City Hall. This will get rid of the modular classrooms and move the kindergartens into the school.
 - There is a three parish working group currently working with an architect for a plan.

Liturgy Changes:

- Fr. Bill discussed the upcoming changes in the liturgy to begin on the First Sunday of Advent. These changes will bring the prayers closer to the original Latin.
- Sr. Judy discussed the changes we will see in the liturgical music. **CLOSED**

Evangelization Training

- Carol Mauchline and Karyl Reckamp attended the Evangelization Training Workshop on October 15, 2011.
- There was discussion about how to re-engage the many Catholics in the area who are not actively involved in parish life.
- Fr. Bill has been working on a letter to mail out to the parish that will help to engage those members who, for a myriad of reasons, are not currently an active part of our parish community. **OPEN**

The Closing prayer was led by Barb Furdek.

The next meeting will be held November 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole H. McKinstry