

St. William Parish Council
September 13, 2022

- **Opening Prayer:** The meeting opened with prayer entitled “*Prayer for A Parish Meeting.*”
- **Welcome:** Fr. Balash welcomed the members and extended a special welcome to the newest members of the Parish Council: Renita Mintus – Liturgy Committee Representative; Taylor Kuhn – Youth Representative; Bob Kane – Knights of Columbus Representative; Christine DePascale – Women’s Guild Representative; Kathy Rogel – Appointed Member and Phil Jones – Appointed Member. A roster of contact information was distributed.
- **Overview / Function of Parish Council:** Fr. Balash provided a summary of the function and responsibility of Parish Council. The By-laws and an overview of the parish model were reviewed.
- **Ministry/Organization Reports:**
 - **Parish Life** -- **Diana Kirkwood:** The parish will join other churches in the area to collect food for Thanksgiving Food Baskets. St. William will be the distribution center this year for Thanksgiving. The Salvation Army will also be contacted to reserve 100 gift tags for the annual giving tree.
 - **Liturgy Committee** -- **Renita Mintus:** The committee met prior to the Parish Council meeting to begin planning for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The Advent theme will be “God Is With Us as We Journey to the Manger.” The annual All Souls Remembrance will be held the weekend of October 29-30, 2022, at all Masses. Lessons and Carols will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. The Christmas Mass schedule will remain the same this year: 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. The regular weekend schedule will take place on New Year’s Eve/Day weekend. The holy day Mass time has changed to 6:30 p.m.
 - **Women’s Guild** -- **Christine DePascale:** New officers for the Women’s Guild include: Christine DePascale, President; Theresa Craiger, Vice-President; Cathy Poponak, Secretary; and Gloria Karafa, Treasurer. In June the Guild held their organizational meeting. The annual Rummage Sale was held in August and was very successful. TNT Night will be on September 11, 2022. A “Chance Auction” will be held on October 11, 2022, and the Christmas Craft Show will be on December 10, 2022. The monthly Women’s Guild meetings have resumed.
 - **Religious Education** -- **Bette Lloyd:** PSR sessions begin on September 11, 2022. There are 32 students enrolled in PSR. Five Faith Family Celebrations are planned this year – 3 during regular class time and 2 in the evening. Adult Faith Formation will be starting with a retreat on September 17, 2022. There are three retreats scheduled this year with a Eucharistic theme. The others are November 12, 2022, and February 11, 2023. Little Rock Scripture Study will begin on September 26, 2022, with the Book of Genesis. Small Faith Communities will resume September 19, 2022, meeting the first and third Mondays of each month. The focus of discussion will be the upcoming Sunday scripture readings.
 - **Finance** -- **Michael McClusky:** Financial reports for the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2022) were reviewed. The budget for 2022-2023 was also reviewed.

- **Knights of Columbus** -- **Bob Kane:** Over the summer the Knights of Columbus participated in numerous events. New officers were installed with Brian McCue remaining as Grand Knight. Upcoming events include: Corporate Communion Mass, October 9, 2022; Sausage Sandwich Sale, October 15, 2022; Measure Up Campaign for Fairhaven, TBA; Christmas Party, December 7, 2022. The Knights will also continue their support of the Women's Guild events and assist at parish events.
- **Youth Ministry:** -- **Taylor Kuhn:** Youth Ministry will hold sessions at different times throughout the month to accommodate schedules of high school teens. Sessions held in the morning will incorporate leadership opportunities; afternoon sessions will focus on Catholic Social Teaching, and evening sessions will focus on peer building and service work. Some upcoming events include: Make a Difference Day, October 22, 2022; cooking and staffing the kitchen for the Women's Guild Christmas Craft Show; and Christmas Caroling at local elderly housing facilities. Trumbull County Catholic Teens will sponsor a Senior Pasta Dinner in November, Solar Cooking and Haitian Relief event; and Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing event.
- **Pastor's Report**
 - **Parking Lot Project Update:** Father Balash updated the members about the Parking Lot Project. The site drawings have been completed and the civil engineer is reviewing the final versions. The Trumbull County engineer has signed off the project and the last approval will be needed from ODOT to approve the entrance relocation. Landscaping plans have also been finalized. It is hoped to begin the project sometime in October.
 - **Parish Debt:** As follow-up to the Finance Committee Report, Fr. Balash reviewed the current parish debt. As of September 6, 2022, the loan debt for the new building was \$198,371.00 and the loan debt for the parking lot is \$150,000.00. The total parish debt is \$348,371.39. Fr. Balash explained the terms of the parking lot loan. The term of the loan is 5 years with balloon payment of \$125,995.82 due September 6, 2027. He raised his concern about the final payment for the parking lot loan. In an effort to retire this loan sooner than 2027, he is suggesting the parish hold a special raffle. (see below)
 - **Saint William Cash Bonanza Raffle:** Fr. Balash spoke about a special raffle to retire the parking lot loan sooner than the 5-year term. The St. William Super Cash Bonanza Raffle could generate between 56K-80K profit for a loan payment depending on the number of tickets sold. The raffle will be announced the weekend of September 24-25, 2022, and all parishioners will receive a mailing and ticket. Tickets will be \$250.00 each and depending on the number of tickets sold the grand prize will range from \$10K-\$25K. Other prizes along with an exclusive seller's raffle and early bird raffles will be part of the drawing. The main raffle will be held on March 4, 2023.
 - **Diocesan Appeal – Mandatory Goals:** Fr. Balash informed members that the diocese is considering making the parish goals for the Annual Diocesan Appeal mandatory to ensure that Catholic Charities receives sufficient funding. Currently parishes are not penalized for not reaching their Appeal goal. This new consideration would mean that parishes would be responsible for making up the difference between the parish goal and the amount donated. Fr. Balash told members that if this were in place for 2022, the parish would need to send \$4000-\$5000 to meet our goal.

- **Diocesan Assessments:** Fr. Balash also told members that the diocese is reviewing the current assessment rate parishes are charged. The current rate (8.5%) has been effect since 1997. The diocese is considering raising the assessment percentage. However, this would not happen in the same year if the Diocesan Appeal parish goal became mandatory.
- **Seminarian - Garrett Guerrieri:** Fr. Balash informed members that Garrett Guerrieri, a seminarian, would be coming to Saint William on a monthly basis to deliver a short reflection on the Sunday readings at Mass as part of his preaching practicum for his seminary formation. He will offer a brief reflection after Communion on the Sunday readings once a month beginning in November.
- **Mass Schedule Update:** Fr. Balash told members that a change in the weekend Mass schedule will happen no later than next summer 2023. Most likely in July 2023, St. William, St. Robert Cortland, and St. Thomas Vienna will be sharing two priests among the three parishes which will necessitate a change in weekend Masses at each parish. St. William will reduce from three to two weekend Masses. The time of the two Masses still needs to be determined. Mass attendance counts continue each weekend. Statistically the Saturday evening Mass is the least attended, however, Fr. Balash pointed out that it is more likely that those attending Mass on Sunday morning will be more apt to change attendance times than those who attend on Saturday.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.