

St. William Parish Council  
January 15, 2019

- **Opening Prayer:** The meeting opened with prayer entitled “*A Prayer of Pilgrims on Sacred Journeys.*”
- **Welcome:** Fr. Balash welcomed the members to the meeting and the minutes from the November 13 2018, meeting were approved as submitted.
- **Ministry/Organization Reports:**
  - **Parish Life** -- **Penny Hudak:** The Parish Life Committee has been meeting to plan the annual Parish Appreciation Event. The event will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, and the theme will be “*The Roaring Twenties.*” The entertainment for the evening will be the solving of a murder mystery. The Appreciation Event is open to all parishioners who have volunteered their time and talent in the past year. Reservation sign-ups are now being taken. The Christmas Giving Tree had 100 gifts donated this year to Catholic Charities. Appointments for pictures for the new Parish Pictorial Directory are currently being scheduled. Pictures will be photographed on February 7-8-9 and 14-15-16, 2019. Currently 113 slots have been filled. There are still 115 spots available. As an incentive to get more parishioners to get their picture taken, all those who sign up will be entered into \$100.00 raffle.
  - **Liturgy Committee** -- **Maureen Scott:** The Liturgy Committee met prior to the Parish Council meeting. The committee reviewed the Advent/Christmas season. The committee also began discussing preliminary plans for the Lent/Easter season. Lenten booklets for parishioners will be available once again this year. The parish theme for Lent will be, “*With Grace and Gladness.*” During the season of Lent, Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday morning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. “The Light is On For You ~ An Evening of Reconciliation,” will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and the Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament along with the other parishes in Warren. The Parish Lenten Mission will be held March 31 – April 1, 2019 and feature Mr. Frank Runyeon. The theme of the mission will be “*Luke: Stories on the Road and the Sermon on the Mount.*” Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at all weekend Masses on February 16-17, 2019. The committee also discussed the growing practice of liturgical ministers missing assignments. It was decided that meetings for all liturgical ministers will be held by March 1, 2019 to reinforce the importance of remaining faithful to their assignments. The committee will meet next on February 12, 2019.
  - **Women’s Guild** -- **Theresa Craiger:** In December the Guild held a kolachi sale; sponsored the annual Parish Christmas Dinner; and the annual Christmas Craft Show. All of these events were successful. The January meeting was held on January 9, 2019 and a speaker from “Inspiring Minds” was present to talk about after school and summer programs for underrepresented youth. The February meeting will be held on February 6, 2019 and will focus on “Life and Estate Planning.” It will feature a presentation from the Office of Stewardship and Development and will be open to all parishioners. The Guild is also looking into purchasing a nut grinder for the kitchen and will be donating three gift prizes for the Parish Appreciation Event. The March meeting will be held on March 13, 2019.

- **Finance** -- **Bob Hardman:** The Finance Committee will meet on February 5, 2019. The boiler was recently refitted with new baffles with the hope that this will alleviate the recent problems with the boiler. The committee will continue discussing the installation of new LED lights throughout the building. The current light bulbs for fixtures, in particular the church, are being phased out therefore new lights will need to be installed in the near future. The committee is currently exploring all options and will offer a recommendation in the near future. On-Line giving began in January and seems to be working well.
- **Religious Education** -- **Jennifer Kusmierek:** First Reconciliation will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2019. There are four students who will be celebrating this sacrament. Plans are being made for the upcoming FFC on Sunday, January 27, 2019. This annual evening session will include dinner for the students and families. The theme of the event is *"Pride in the Past."* Parents have sent in pictures and stories about when they received their sacraments and this will be presented as a slide show. Grades 4-6 have started a prayer tree in the main hallway for special prayer intentions. The "secret prayer partner" program is going well. Partner churches have begun exchanging letters with our students and a few of them want to continue this next year along with doing other additional activities. Grade 7-8 continue to collect "pop tabs" for Sr. Monica's Tailoring Center in Gulu, Uganda.
- **Youth Ministry** -- **Chase Kufchak:** The Senior Pasta Dinner held at Saint Mary Church in November was a great success. Several teens volunteered to help cook, serve and clean up. Youth Ministry made meatballs, croutons, and stuffed cabbage for the Women's Guild Craft Show. They also volunteered in the kitchen on the day of the Craft Show to serve lunch to guests. Prayers are asked for those attending the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. Upcoming events include assisting with the meal for the PSR Faith Family Celebration on January 27, 2019; Souper Bowl of Caring on February 2-3, 2019; Warren Area Catholic Teens Kairos Retreat, March 2-3, 2019; and St. William will host the Warren Area Catholic Teens for Stations of the Cross on March 22, 2019.
- **Knights of Columbus:** -- **Brian McCue:** The Knights of Columbus held their Christmas Dinner in December and also assisted at the Women's Guild Craft Show. Upcoming events include: Basketball Free-Throw contest, January 19, 2019 at Champion High School gym; Valentine's Day Reverse Raffle, Saturday, February 16, 2019; and Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast, Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Mass. Regular meetings will be held on January 16, February 6 and 20, and March 6, 2019. The Knights of Columbus annual charity raffle will begin in February.
- **Pastor's Report:**
  - **New Pictorial Directory:** Fr. Balash reminded members about the Parish Pictorial Directory appointment sign-ups. To date 113 parishioners have made appointments. There remain 115 open slots. As an incentive, anyone who signs up to get their picture taken for the directory will automatically be entered into a raffle for \$100.00.
  - **On-Line Giving:** Fr. Balash announced that on-line giving is now available to parishioners for their Sunday contributions. Parishioners can sign up through the parish website.

- Fish Dinner Update: The Fish Dinners will begin on Friday, March 1, 2019. Fr. Balash has formed a Steering Committee to oversee the Fish Dinners. Currently the committee is meeting to review and plan for this year's dinners. Under discussion is the introduction of "haluski" to the menu as a side item and as a dinner alternative. The committee is also reviewing the prices for the dinners and other incentives to create some new enthusiasm for the dinners. As soon as these decisions are finalized information will be released.
  - Bishop's Appeal Update: Fr. Balash spoke briefly about the 2019 Diocesan Bishop's Appeal. The first mailing to parishioners will be sent February 15, 2019. This year's appeal is focusing on prayer, support and volunteering. A special effort is being made to increase the number of people participating in the appeal. The overall goal of the Appeal is \$4.2 million and Saint William's goal is \$43,636.00.
  - Parish Appreciation Event: Fr. Balash reported that the Parish Life Committee is actively planning the annual Parish Appreciation Event on January 26, 2019. Currently 119 people have signed up to attend.
  - Parish APP: Fr. Balash announced that new Saint William Parish App is being developed for smartphones. The app will include information about the parish and will be available free to all parishioners. It will be most helpful when news or cancellation information needs to be sent out. The launch date for the app will be sometime in mid-February.
- **Member Comments:** None

The next meeting of Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.