

St. William Parish Council  
November 10, 2020

- **Opening Prayer:** The meeting opened with prayer entitled “*A Prayer for Our New Bishop.*”
- **Welcome:** Fr. Balash welcomed the members who were present. Due to the pandemic, this was first in-person meeting since January 2020. In May 2020, a virtual meeting was held. Fr. Balash welcomed new members to the Council: Diana Kirkwood representing Parish Life Committee; Bette Lloyd representing Religious Education; and Linda Horm representing the Women’s Guild. Two At-Large members will be discerned at the conclusion of this meeting. An overview of the purpose and responsibility of Parish Council will be given at the January 2021 meeting.
- **Ministry/Organization Reports:**
  - **Parish Life** -- **Diana Kirkwood:** The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Giving Tree events have been revised in light of the pandemic circumstances. The Thanksgiving Food Drive will not be held among the area churches this year. It was decided that the parish would give gift certificates to the residents of Woodlawn Meadows. A special collection will be held in early November. Catholic Charities will not be supplying gift tags for the Giving Tree this year. Contact has been made with the Salvation Army and they have agreed to provide 100 gift tags. The gifts will be due on December 6, 2020.
  - **Liturgy Committee** -- **Maureen Scott:** The committee met in October and worked on the Season of Advent. “Now is the time” will be the theme this year. A brief discussion was held and some ideas surfaced for the Advent and Christmas environment. Members of the committee will continue to work on these projects. The annual All Soul Remembrance ceremony was held October 31/November 1, 2020. The return of the hymnals began in late October. New covers for the hymnals will be purchased and the new hymnals begin on November 28/29, 2020. Those wishing to have a personal copy of the hymnal for use will be invited to do so.
  - **Women’s Guild** -- **Linda Horm:** The Women’s Guild April Card Party, August Rummage Sale, and Parish Picnic were canceled due to the pandemic. An organizational meeting was held in July and in-person monthly meetings have been held in September, October, and November averaging 24-28 members. The Women’s Guild funded the decorating of the handicap restroom, food processor for the kitchen, and updates to the sound system in the Church and Social Hall. A virtual “Gift Basket Raffle” was held in October using some of the donated baskets from the canceled Card Party. Upcoming events include: Kolachi Bake, December 2; Christmas Car-o-ling and Box Dinner, December 6; and Christmas Craft Show, December 12, 2020.
  - **Finance** -- **Bob Hardman:** The Finance Committee met on November 2, 2020, to review the financial status of the parish. A brief report was presented on the current financial position of the parish. Parishioners continue to respond generously in supporting the parish during the pandemic. In summer, the parish was part of the Payroll Protection – Cares Act administered through the Diocese. The parish received funds to cover eight weeks of payroll in relief due to the pandemic. Currently we are awaiting word that the loan has been converted to a grant thus eliminating the requirement to pay back the funds.

- **Religious Education** -- **Bette Lloyd:** In-person PSR classes began on September 27, 2020, with appropriate safety protocols being observed including face coverings and temperature checks. Attendance thus far has been good. A digital version of our religious education program has been purchased for those deciding not to attend in-person sessions and in the event that PSR will need to be held remotely. Two FFC events have been scheduled for January 31, and March 21, 2021. The prayer partner program begun last year has been continued this year along with the prayer wall intention board located in the main hallway. PSR will be making cards for the Thanksgiving Giving bags for Woodland Meadow residents. The Stories and Scripture program has been postponed for the time being and PSR has discontinued the collection of pop can tabs. There is still a need for a catechist/helper in Grade 7/8. There are currently five candidates preparing for Confirmation this year. Adult Faith Formation began in October. Little Rock Scripture Study was offered with 19 participants. In November, Bishop Robert Barron's *The Sacraments* by Word on Fire will be offered and will continue in January and February. Currently there are 23 participants.
- **Youth Ministry** -- **Frank DePascale:** Youth Ministry meets every Sunday from 12:00n-1:30 p.m. Currently there is an average of 6 students attending. In October the students painted pumpkins for parishioners over 80 years old. 110 pumpkins were delivered on October 24, 2021. Trick-or-Treat bags were made for K-8 children. On November 1, 2021, the teens gathered for the Diocesan Youth Convention that was held virtually. Frank DePascale was featured on the website introducing one of the teen challenges. On November 21, 2020, Youth Ministry is planning a Senior Pasta Dinner for parishioners who are senior citizens. Youth Ministry will also be assisting with the distribution of the Thanksgiving Giving bags to the residents at Woodland Meadows. In December, they will be preparing and staffing the kitchen for the Women's Guild Christmas Craft Show. Warren Area Catholic Teens will not be gathering until the pandemic restrictions are lifted.
- **Knights of Columbus:** -- **Brian McCue:** The Knights of Columbus recently contributed to the Knights Ultrasound Project. In September a new ultrasound machine was purchase and given to Bella Women's Center in Warren. The cost was about \$44,000.00. The Sausage Sandwich Drive-Thru held in September was very successful. 225 sandwiches were sold. A portion of the proceeds was given to Fairhaven in Champion in lieu of the annual Measure Up collection that was not held this year due to the pandemic. The Knights have celebrated two Corporate Communion Masses in recent months to promote the importance of celebrating Eucharist as a family. The Knights will participate in the Coats for Kids program by purchasing a case of 12 new coats for Rene's Closet. A second Sausage Sandwich Drive-Thru is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2020, from 4:00-6:30 p.m. The Knights will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" yard signs for \$10.00 this year. They are planning to hold their annual Reverse Raffle in February however details of how the event will be conducted are still in the planning stages.
- **Pastor's Report:**
  - **Parish Overview:** Fr. Balash provided a brief overview of the parish from the past months. While the pandemic has impacted many parish activities and events, the spirit of the parishioners remains strong. Financial support has been overwhelmingly positive and has allowed the parish to remain financially responsible and stable. Parish groups are delicately maneuvering through the issues of the pandemic and are taking precautions when holding events. Activities that are being held are being done

- so with all necessary safety and health protocols. Mass attendance has been steadily increasing but remains below pre-pandemic levels. Hopefully as we continue to move forward, people will begin to feel comfortable and safe to attend Sunday Mass. The dispensation granted by the Bishops of Ohio remains in effect for the time being.
- Christmas Mass Weekend: Fr. Balash told members that he is working on a strategy/guidance document for the Diocese about Christmas Mass for this year. As soon as a plan is devised it will be announced to the parish
  - Fish Dinner Update: Fr. Balash indicated that the Fish Dinner Committee has been meeting to discuss the Fish Dinners for 2021. It has been decided that Fish Dinners will be as a Drive-Thru Carry Out only option for 2021. The committee continues to meet to work out details.

- **Member Comments:** None
- **Discernment Prayer for New At-Large Members:** The meeting concluded with a Discernment Prayer for two new At-Large Members to the Parish Council. Robin Walk and Paul Mendik were chosen.
- **Meeting Conclusion:** Meeting dates for upcoming Parish Council meetings were distributed. Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on: January 12; March 9; and May 11, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.