

St. William Parish Council  
January 12, 2016

- **Opening Prayer:** The meeting opened with the Year of Mercy Prayer for January entitled “*Instructing the People of God.*”
- **Welcome and Review of November 10, 2015 Minutes:** The members were welcomed to the meeting and the minutes of the November 10, 2015, meeting approved as submitted.
- **Review Diocesan Pastoral Plan:** The members reviewed two sections of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Evangelization: “*Trusting in Christ: A Call to Discipleship.*” The sections that were reviewed were Family Life and Worship and Prayer. The members offered their input on how St. William Parish is fulfilling this area of ministry and how the parish might also improve in these areas. The results of the discussion will be summarized and a full assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the parish will be compiled after all of the sections of the plan have been reviewed. At the March 8, 2016 meeting, members will offer input in the area of Discipleship and Faith Formation.
- **Ministry/Organization Reports:**
  - **Parish Life** -- **Patty Heib:** Fr. Balash stated that the committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016, to finalize plans for the upcoming Parish Appreciation Event to be held on January 30, 2016. The theme of the evening will be a “*Wild Western Hoe-Down.*” There will be entertainment, picture taking and prizes.
  - **Liturgy Committee** -- **Donna Runtas:** Fr. Balash reported that the Liturgy Committee had met earlier in the evening. The committee reviewed the seasons of Advent and Christmas. After some discussion, it was decided to change the Mass schedule for Christmas beginning next year to: 5:00 p.m. and **10:00 p.m.** on Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. Fr. Balash also reported that the parish recently purchased statues of the Three Wise Kings from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Vienna for \$1,500.00. These statues match our current Nativity set and complete our set. The committee discussed and planned the upcoming season of Lent. The theme will be “*Awakening Faith.*” During Lent, the parish will host a Wednesday evening Lenten program of Evening Prayer and Stations of the Cross alternating each week. On March 2, 2016, the parish will participate in the Diocesan Year of Mercy event entitled “*Leaving the Light On ~ An Evening of Reconciliation*” from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at all parishes throughout the diocese during this time. As a result of this event, the annual Lenten Communal Reconciliation service will not be held this year however parishioners will be encouraged to join a city-wide celebration at a parish to be determined. The committee will put up the Lent environment on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. before their regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m.
  - **Women’s Guild** -- **Therese Tuttle:** The Women’s Guild held their monthly meeting on January 6, 2016 . In December the Women’s Guild held their Kolachi Bake (Dec. 2); the annual Parish Family Dinner (Dec. 6); and the Christmas Craft Show (Dec. 12). At the January meeting the members decided to review the Women’s Guild By-Laws. A committee has been formed and will be meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. There are still three officer positions open for 2016-2017 and a committee has been formed to solicit volunteers. A chairperson is still needed for the Mother/Child Banquet and Marian Devotion event in May 2016. Upcoming

events include: February Monthly Meeting on February 3, 2016; March Monthly Meeting on February 29, 2016; TNT Night, March 15, 2016; and Kolachi Bake on March 16, 2016.

- **Finance** -- **Linda Horm**: The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, to review the current parish financial status. At the present time there are no pressing financial issues. Fr. Balash informed the members that the 54 Ford Jubilee tractor was sold in December for \$1500.00.
- **Religious Education** -- **Maria Butcher**: The members were updated on the many projects and activities of Youth Ministry from the past months. These included: participation in National Catholic Youth Convention in Indianapolis (November); participation with the Warren Area Catholic Teens to serve a spaghetti dinner to honor senior citizens (November); and staffing the kitchen for the Christmas Craft Show (December). Youth Ministry and the Confirmation Candidates will be serving at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen on January 30, 2016. PSR held a Family Faith Celebration on January 10, 2016. The topic was the Year of Mercy Corporal/Spiritual Work of Mercy January focus: "*Instructing the People of God.*" Those in attendance engaged in a presentation from some Women's Guild representatives about our sister parish, Saint Anthony in Norton, Virginia. Confirmation will be celebrated on February 28, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at Saint Columba Cathedral for our parish. Future activities include: Kairos Retreat; Souper Bowl Collection; Stations of the Cross; Catholic Relief Service Food Fast; and iPlunge Retreat.
- **Knights of Columbus**: -- **John Timko**: The Knights of Columbus held a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, November 13, 2015. The Knights recognized all Veterans after all Masses the weekend of November 7-8, 2015. The Knights of Columbus Reverse Raffle will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2016 in the Social Hall.
- **Pastor's Report**: Father Balash reported on the following items:
  - **Capital Campaign/Building Committee**: Fr. Balash provided the latest update on the Capital Campaign. As of January 8, 2016, \$562,549.00 has been pledged and \$388,183.00 (69%) has been collected. A balance of \$177,365.00 (31%) remains on pledges. The Campaign total, including the pledged amount and previous Fish Dinner savings is \$703,814.00 with \$529,448.00 cash on hand. Fr. Balash reported that the Building Committee held its first meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2016, and will be meeting again on Thursday, January 21, 2016. He will provide updates on the progress of the committee.
  - **Fish Dinner Update**: Fr. Balash reminded members that the annual Fish Dinners begin on Friday, February 5, 2016. Because of the early start of Lent there will only be 7 dinners this year.
  - **Awakening Faith**: Fr. Balash spoke to members about a new initiative that will be happening beginning in February in the parish called "*Awakening Faith.*" This program is geared to lapsed Catholics who are members of the parish but might not be practicing their faith on a regular basis. The initiative will kick-off the weekend of January 23/24 celebrating *Invitation Sunday*. It is hoped that members who know of someone who might benefit or might desire reconnecting to the Church and parish will be encouraged and invited to attend.

- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:** The council will meet next on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.