

## **All Saints Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**7:00 PM Assumption Hall**

- 1. Opening Prayer** – Led by Andy Gruninger
- 2. Acceptance of Agenda** – Moved by Shelley Thom, Seconded by Julie Rose. Carried.
- 3. Review and Acceptance of the Minutes** – Moved by Mike Roberts, Seconded by Faye Henderson. Carried.
- 4. Pastor's Report** –
  - a.** Soup Suppers – During Advent and Lent approximately 75 – 90 people attended. It has been suggested that soup suppers continue every first Friday during the year to allow for community building and fellowship.

Fr. Kevin: What do we think?

Question: Does this diminish to having it more often than just Advent and Lent?

Answer: It would be something to look forward to.

Question: What would we do during summer?

Answer: Not sure. We could try it and see. The numbers of attendees for Mass don't drop much during the summer so it could be a go.

Question: Are we going to tax the workers – burn out?

Answer: A lot of young adults have stepped up to help out. We could be community building.

Shelley Thom will be in charge of organising the soup suppers with help.

**MOTION:** That we carry on with soup suppers once a month – Mike Roberts. Seconded by Adam Thom. Carried.
  - b.** Finances – All is looking good at this time. Our biggest problem over time will be the gas, electricity (power) and water expense. During the colder months, heating costs are an issue as there is no insulation in the walls of the churches. Air conditioning units are being checked at this time. There has been an increase in cost of over 50%. We have recently changed company and this contract was the best we could get for now. Our contract provider is not a fixed rate, rather a floating rate. The Diocese is looking at getting a fixed rate across the entire Diocese to allow for a better fixed rate deal. This is in negotiations at this time.

Question: Solar panels – have we looked into these?

Answer: We would need a report from our engineers on the stability of our roofs of the churches if they would be able to support them. We are looking at buying 3 new computers.

- c. Easter – It was a great blessing. (See attached chart) Our numbers are not the same as 2019 (pre-Covid) yet.
- d. Retreats/First Communicants – The Grade 6 retreats are halfway through. For their Social Justice activity, they make 200 sandwiches and we take them to the Shelter. They are very happy with this. First Communions will start the first weekend in May.
- e. St. Patrick's Church – at the mass on March 17<sup>th</sup>, there were approximately 600 who attended. (See attached chart for costs to re-opening). The collection for that mass was \$989.00. The City of Lethbridge has our application for taxes. They are not available until September or October as they require knowledge of when we will be open – proof of concept – for mass and for occasional prayer.

Question: Who will be responsible for cleaning and repairing the church?

Answer: The parish – we are responsible for the wear and tear.

- f. Roof Repairs/Yard Work – Repairs to Assumption are being fixed. St. Basil's are also being fixed. It will cost \$9000 + to repair. Yard work is happening and the landscaping with flowers will be done for the Spring.

**5. ELC PAP – East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project – Chapter 1** Communications Update was read to the Parish Council. Information about the Project and how it is progressing can be found on the parish website – [allsaintslethbridge.org](http://allsaintslethbridge.org) A 1-page survey through Survey monkey will be available to all parishioners to complete on the website, or it will be included as a handout at mass for the first two weekends in May. Anyone requiring help to fill it out can contact the office. As per government census, there are 14,000 Catholics in East Lethbridge. This survey will take into account what our future will look like and what we need. As Bishop McGrattan indicated previously “all options are open.” Data collection will follow and a needs assessment will determine what our best course of action might be for our future. We will look at the information and the Diocese will do so as well. Consideration from the viewpoint of the City of Lethbridge, from the government, from demographics (ages, family situations, various nationalities, etc.), the history of the parish, etc. will be looked at.

**6. Old Business –** None at this time.

**7. New Business –**

- a. Mass Attendance – Attendance at Mass has been steadily growing however, there is a problem with parking during Mass times.

Question: Why is there no respect for those who live in the neighbourhood?

Answer: Father Kevin has advised the authorities to go ahead and ticket or tow those who do not respect our neighbours and cause issues regarding parking.

- b. St. Patrick's Opened for Occasional Prayer –

Father Kevin: What does it mean to be opened for “occasional prayer” regarding St. Patrick's? Father says he is under the obedience by the Bishop to open St. Patrick's for occasional prayer as per the Congregation of the Clergy (*corrected*). We need to do this, just want to do it in the safest manner. Only the main body of St. Patrick's will be open – no balcony or basement.

Discussion:

-There will be an issue with security as the church is located in the downtown area and street people have made it very difficult, especially with alcohol and drugs. Do we need to hire someone? They will need to be qualified. Safety is of the utmost importance. People in prayer should not have to worry about security. Can call on the police emergency line if having problems.

-What time of day? How long of a period of time?

-Duration of opening?

-Will need 2 or 3 people at all times in the church. Parking during the day is paid parking.

-The Blessed Sacrament will be on the altar.

-What will the city taxes look like if only opened occasionally?

-Cost to open St. Patrick's occasionally?

- Definition of “Occasional prayer” – the Rosary, Adoration, etc. however no Masses. Mass is Mass and Prayer is Prayer.

-maybe open St. Patrick's with a small time frame

Question: How do other denominations in the area deal with the security problem?

Answer: Many lock their doors.

**MOTION:** To consider St. Patrick's be open once a month on the first Saturday for prayer for 2 hours 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Moved by Joe Prozniak, Seconded by Mike Roberts.

In Favor (21), Against (8), Abstained (3). Carried.

Mike Roberts will look into getting security 12 times a year for this from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Hope that St. Patrick's will be open on

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Note that parking is free on Saturdays.

**8. Adjourned** – Moved by Helen Manzara, Seconded by Adam Thom. Carried

**9. Future Meeting Dates: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at Assumption Hall  
TO BE DETERMINED**

109 People	Easter 2023	Easter 2022	CCH	89 People for Basket blessing: Basils
	366	Holy Thursday	325	
	650	Good Friday 3 PM	535	
	350	Easter Vigil	285	
	235	Easter Sunday 7:30	190	
	310	Easter Sunday 9:00	280	
	500	Easter Sunday 11:00	330	
	2411		1945	

#### St. Patrick's Re-Opening costs

Cleaning	2,492.50
Electrical	327.49
Fire Safety Upgrades	578.44
Locksmith	3,251.40
Misc. Supplies	336.21
Plumbing	5,368.24
	<u>12,354.28</u>

March 17 Collection 989.00