

All Saints Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15th, 2025

7:00 PM Assumption Hall

1. **Opening Prayer** – Led by Andy Gruninger
2. **Acceptance of Agenda** – Moved by Bob Spitzig. Seconded by Katie Edmundson. Carried.
3. **Review and Acceptance of the Minutes** – Father Kevin noted that there was a word missing on 4.e. of the November Minutes. The word “consultation” was added after the word “maintenance.” Moved with correction by Julie Rose. Seconded by Francis Noronha. Carried.
4. **Pastor’s Report** – led by Father Kevin
 - a. Finances – The Year-End Financial Report will be out in the bulletin next week. It will explain what and where money was spent, for example, furnaces, tree cutting, window fixing, fencing, the canopy, roof, and sunroom. The revenue is in the black. Income is flat however, expenses are still rising (20%) – gas, electricity, snow removal, postal and fax, etc. All Saints has spent over \$100K in maintenance and repairs. The canopy and concrete at St. Basil’s will be worked on this year. For note, there is no rebate for the Carbon Tax for the parish.
 - b. Custodian – The custodian currently at All Saints, Kerry, will be retiring. At this time there is a new female custodian who is hardworking but there may be an issue of her work visa.
 - c. Refugees and Immigration - There are concerns with our government situation at this time and not sure how things will proceed. The Syrian families here will not have to leave to go back.
 - d. New Website Design – There seems to be a few issues with the new website. People are finding it difficult to navigate and search - it is “not user friendly.”
 - e. Sacramental Preparation – Numbers are up in all the sacraments, including RCIA.

Question: What are the number of marriages in the church?
Answer: Across the Diocese the numbers are down, more couples are choosing to live together.

Question: Why are people electing not to have funerals?
Answer: Numbers for funerals have been down in our parish this year, however, it is usually has to do with the family who choose not to go ahead. It often is an issue about money.

Information: the #5 cause of death in Canada is MAID – Medical Assistance in Dying. Not all numbers are being recorded. This is a major problem for the Catholic Church. The pastor cannot have a funeral in the Church if he knows that the person has died by suicide. The Church recognizes that the person was in distress and not in their right mind.

Question: Would it not be a good idea to let church members know this and that they should follow church doctrine?

Answer: Yes, information was shared several years ago, but maybe it is time to revisit this and even to include and insert in the bulletin.

5. Renewal Update – None at this time

6. Committee Updates –

- a. Needs Mitigation Committee – The committee has sent a Recommendation Report to Roisin (the Chair of the Unity Committee) for their information.
- b. Unity Committee – Nothing to report at this time.
- c. Maintenance Committee – Hardware is still needed for the fence at St. Patrick's. Concrete and canopy to be dealt with at St. Basil's.
- d. New Church Committee - (formerly known as the Building Committee) The committee is currently working through feasibility recommendations.

Question: Are we still thinking about fundraising?

Answer: The parish had hired a professional fundraiser in the past and now need to see what needs to be upgraded or changed to move ahead.

7. New Business – None at this time

8. PPC Teaching – Three-part series on the Eucharist (see attached)

9. Adjourned –Moved by Helen Manzara.

10. Future Meeting Dates:

February 19th, 2025

March 12th, 2025

April 30th, 2025

May 14th, 2025

June 18th, 2025

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at Assumption Hall

THE EUCHARIST

Information and Notes from Father Kevin's Teaching

- The Eucharist is my life: The source and summit of our faith
- “This is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.”
- Why am I at church? – to worship, to participate in the eternal banquet.
 - Canon law indicates that the Eucharist be received once per year
 - Canadians are given 54+ opportunities to worship and receive
- We need to worship before we receive Jesus. We can also just worship and not receive. The key is worship of the gift. To receive is the greatest gift of all.
- There have been changes on what the Eucharist looks like over the centuries. The Catholic Latin Rite uses unleavened bread, and here we use whole wheat. It also signifies the Passover meal. The Last Supper Jesus probably used a large loaf of bread. There are various forms, shapes and sizes in different Rites. Some Rites also tincture – where there is dipping of the body in the blood. There is always a need to try to avoid crumbs – these are also part of the Eucharist.
- The priest mingles a small piece of the Eucharist into the blood – it is consecrated, broken and mingled, then shared.
- Jesus Died, Jesus is Risen, Jesus is Alive.
- The “Behold the Lamb of God...” comes from John the Baptist
- “Lord I am not worthy...” comes from the centurion. Allows us to receive in humility. We need to receive with reverence, and to teach others about reverence. THIS IS JESUS! Receive what you believe in – Believe in what you receive!
- We have been able to receive both species (body and blood of Christ) since Vatican II.
- Eucharistic miracles bring Jesus to the reality that He truly is the Son of God – this is the reality of the Eucharist.
- Regarding reverence, we are now allowed to kneel and pray or stand until all have received the Eucharist. The same posture is not needed to all be in unity. Just come in humility to receive Jesus. The focal point is Jesus Christ. We are all bound together by Jesus' love in the Eucharist.