

St. Katharine Drexel Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 20, 2017

Members present: Rick Lingberg, Sandra Meyers, Diane Nekvinda, Jessie DeGiorgio , Jan Feterl, Jeff Ellefson, Jim Frank, Fr. Tschakert, Tonia Honner

1. Jessie reported for the Liturgy, Art and Environment Committee. Decorating the altar for Lent will be done next Sunday or Monday. The stained glass windows have all been installed. There was a suggestion to look into rolling carts for the metal choir chairs.
2. Fr. Tschakert reported that we are looking for a new head of Building and Grounds Committee since Brian passed away. There are several volunteers who help with outside as well as inside projects. A meeting with that committee was suggested to determine who might be interested in heading up the committee.
3. Diane reported for the Welcoming Committee. Meetings will be moved to Sundays between Masses every other month. They will be checking the box monthly to make sure names are taken in a timely manner. Welcoming Weekend will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. A suggestion was brought forth from the Welcoming Committee members on doing a door-to-door campaign similar to the one we had when the parish started.
4. Tonia reported for Communications Committee. Carol sent an e-mail asking that any committee that wanted something included in the next e-newsletter should get that information to Carol for publication the first week of March.
5. Jeff reported for the Finance Committee. Bids for security cameras will be reviewed by committee on Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. Our parish CFSA assessment for 2017 is \$90,200. Anything over that amount will be tithed and go toward our capital fund to complete Katie Ave. The developer on west side of Katie Ave. has not committed to a specific time frame to complete the road, but committee members have kept in communication with him. Our parking lot resurfacing may be able to wait a year or two, as it was also suggested that heavy equipment from Katie Ave. would destroy our parking lot until that road was finished. Our debt is now at \$3.492 million. Jeff explained how operating expenses are always going to go up.
5. Rick reported for the Stewardship Committee. Their recent meeting focused on engaging people in what's going on in the parish. One of the ways the group could show stewardship was to set up a cleaning day inside the church.
6. Jan reported for Social Ministries Committee. The committee didn't meet for the month of January. Our Parish Food & Diaper Pantry recorded the highest amount of groceries given away at 145 bags, and the second highest number of diaper bags given away at 244. The committee

continues to ask for help serving The Banquet, the St. Francis House and the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House lunches.

7. Sandra reported for the Parish Activities Committee. An Easter egg hunt is planned for Palm Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>) after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses. They are checking to see if the Easter bunny is available to visit at the Youth Pancake Breakfast. The committee would like have the parish Rosary Rally again in June. They will be checking with Doughertys to see if they could host again. Rather than trying a parish Rummage Sale, it was suggested that we bring the St. Vincent dePaul truck back to the parking lot.

8. Jim reported for the Youth. Confirmation was this past Sunday with 38 students being confirmed. The Confirmation retreat on Saturday went really well with lots of great comments. Parent meeting for 2018 Confirmation will be Wed., March 8<sup>th</sup>. Jim has been visiting students at O’Gorman Jr. High and High School, Memorial Middle School and Roosevelt High School for lunch. These visits have been fun and a way to get to know more students. The Steubenville North Conference and the Mission Trip registrations are starting to come in. These are great options for Confirmation students to get their required hours. We have two Large Group Meetings coming up: We’ll have Sr. Janet Horstman speak to the youth in March, and one of the resource officers to talk about social media in April.

9. Fr. Tschakert provided us with some of the materials the parish will hand out during Lent to engage more families. We will use the Rice Bowl with 50% going to Catholic Relief Services, 25% going to our Parish Food & Diaper Pantry, and 25% to our St. Vincent DePaul Conference. We have postcards going out to over 7,200 households within a 3-mile radius of our parish, Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent, and the Knights of Columbus fish dinner each Friday during Lent.

10. Confirmation 2018: In visiting with the Confirmation students from this year, Fr. Tschakert has heard from many of the students that they don’t attend Mass on a regular basis. The students indicated activities and jobs as the main reasons. Fr. Tschakert challenged us to come up with ideas on how we can engage them more. Some don’t come often as their parents don’t lead by example. Fr. Tschakert also asked for ideas on more group service projects to fulfill their service hours and we discussed that each parish has different requirements for service hours.