

St. Edith Parish Council Meeting
January 11, 2022
7 p.m. - Church

Meeting Minutes

Attended: Deb Beaman, Joe Bertrand, Renee Billotto, John Bodnar, Denise Brady, John Brady, Deacon Don Esler, Elisabeth Johnston, Alex Mager, Fr. Jim McNulty, Lisa Smerdon, Mark Tuttle

Absent: Terri Field, Megan Wolschleger

- I. Opening Prayer - Deacon Don Esler began the meeting with an opening prayer at 7:01 p.m.
- II. Review and Approve Minutes - The December 2021 meeting minutes were approved.
- III. Chairman's Comments

A. Questions from Megan Wolschleger

1. As a follow-up to a previous conversation at Parish Council, can the seventh and eighth graders serve as lectors, EMEs, and altar servers at the Sunday 5 p.m. Masses in addition to/in conjunction with the Youth Group?

Lisa Smerdon will take this question to the Worship Commission for discussion. Deacon Don noted that he would welcome seventh and eighth graders participation in the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass, however, this age group seems to not be coming to this Mass.

2. Can the EME sign-up process be reviewed and perhaps amended to use Sign-up Genius as a way to enable more/different volunteers to participate as it seems the same people are always signing-up?

Lisa Smerdon will take this question to the Worship Commission for discussion. Mark Tuttle noted that for Saturday 5 p.m. Mass, EMEs sign-up on Friday afternoons or 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Also, Sign-up Genius has been discussed for use in the past, but can prove difficult for the sacristans to coordinate between EMEs who use Sign-up Genius and EMEs who sign-up/are available on-site at Mass. A discussion at Worship Commission will be helpful in devising a fair and equitable process for EME sign-ups.

3. The CYO Mass is Sunday, February 6 at 5 p.m. CYO would like CYO coaches and student-athletes to serve as lectors, EMEs, altar servers, etc.

Lisa Smerdon will take this request to Worship Commission for discussion and coordination.

4. Can a QR code be added into the bulletin to be scanned, taking users directly to the online giving page to donate?

John Brady will take this question to the Finance Council for discussion.

- B. Parishioner's email sharing concerns and questions regarding holding spaghetti and pizza dinners amidst the Omicron COVID surge.

Discussion ensued around the pros and cons, responsibility, safety, risk, community, the healthcare system, and St. Edith volunteers as they relate to the spaghetti and pizza dinners. Fr. Jim noted that at spaghetti dinner on Sunday, January 9, approximately 70-80 people attended. Attendees are eating spaced apart and the spaghetti dinner volunteers want to do it. Related, Fr. Jim mentioned that he did not think anyone has been hospitalized with COVID as a result of attending a St. Edith gathering.

While there is no perfect or right/wrong answer to this parishioner's concerns and questions, the Parish Council's thoughtful discussion will help inform Fr. Jim in his decision making as he ultimately will make the decisions regarding parish events. The majority of the Parish Council members agreed that the various hospitality and community activities at St. Edith are not irresponsible to our parishioners and these types of activities should continue at this time. Mark Tuttle will respond to the parishioner's email.

- IV. Fr. Jim's Comments - Christmas Mass turnout was smaller than pre-pandemic attendance levels. While 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Masses were well attended, midnight, 8:30 a.m., and 11 a.m. Masses had very low attendance. Overall, Fr. Jim estimated that Christmas Mass attendance was $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of pre-pandemic attendance. Related, the last two weekends he has noticed sparse Mass attendance. He attributed low Mass attendance at Christmas and over the past two weekends to parishioners' hesitancy amidst the current state of COVID.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Vicariate - no report
- B. Christian Service - The Knights of Columbus purchased 100 coats to be donated to Christ the King Parish in Detroit. St. Edith parishioners were very generous in supporting this cause! The MOPS group continues to grow. Funeral lunches are on hold during COVID as the funeral lunch volunteers do not want to participate during the pandemic. Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach volunteers were down 50-60% and Denise Brady attributed this to volunteers' hesitancy to volunteer during the pandemic.
- C. Education - no report; no meeting in December
- D. Evangelization - no report; no meeting in December
- E. Seniors - Joe Bertrand had nothing to report on behalf of the seniors.
- F. Worship - The Worship Commission met in mid-December 2021. EMEs are now available at every station. Al Rivard and Joe Rashid are able to get EMEs to serve. Benediction has returned to Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. The ushers plan to hold a pancake breakfast in February. The Art and Environment committee decorated for Christmas and

did an outstanding job, as usual. Kudos to the Art and Environment committee for creating such a festive worship environment! The December 2021 communal Reconciliation service had 14 priests participate. Lisa Smerdon will continue to train new altar servers each month and will continue in her role to train altar servers until the end of the school year. She noted that she would like to see more of the servers she has been training serve at Masses. The Worship Commission will next meet on January 12, 2022.

G. Finance - no report; no meeting in December

As mentioned above, John Brady will take the question related to adding QR codes in the bulletins to the Finance Council for discussion.

VI. New Business - There was no new business to discuss.

VII. February 8, 2022 - Opening and Closing Prayer Volunteers

Joe Bertand volunteered for the opening prayer and Mark Tuttle volunteered for the closing prayer.

VIII. Closing Prayer - In Terri Field's absence, Mark Tuttle closed the meeting at 7:42 p.m. with a prayer provided by Terri Field.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Johnston