

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2022**  
**7:00 PM**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Present: Dustin Auffarth, Cindy Bischoff, Jack Cassidy, Annette Dubas, Denise Ei, Lura Kearns, Cathy Loss, Kelly Lynch, Paul Prodoehl, Betty Svirsko, Jeff Topper

Absent: Sandy Pultro, Luis Zepeda

**EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

Present: Msgr. Lyons, Fr. Miller, Fr. Rothan, Deacon Pichardo

Absent: David Staub

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**

- a. Msgr. Lyons opened the meeting with a prayer. Jeff Topper chaired the meeting. Members attended in person

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

- a. A motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting was made by Betty Svirsko and seconded by Paul Prodoehl. The motion passed with no amendments.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. The church library – Jeff Topper spoke with Carol Gerkin. She has placed information in the bulletin outlining the resources available and the procedures in place for borrowing materials. This information will be placed in future bulletins and made available on the website as well.
- b. Review and finalize draft letter to parishioners re: survey – An insert will be placed in the bulletin addressing the parish and informing them of the results of the survey. Items that have already been addressed will be noted and upcoming improvements will be mentioned.
  - i. Before the letter is shared, it will be reworked to address minor issues and it will be broken into smaller bits of information so as to be more communicative. The first letter will introduce the process of the survey and its results and subsequent letters will update progress.
- c. Review and finalize parish registration form – Monsignor Lyons will talk to the office staff to determine what information they need to collect from new members of our church.
- d. Discussion on Synodal Process – All parish councils are called to invite reflection and discussion, led by the Holy Spirit, on the direction of the Catholic Church. We must keep in mind that the essential framework of Catholic dogma is set, but there is room within the framework to address the needs of a changing population. One issue is the question of how the Catholic Church can continue to operate within a secular culture.
  - i. A Parish Council meeting will be set aside in March for the planning of listening sessions with members of the parish and devising means by which to manage the feedback that we receive. The Council must deliver a one-page plan to the diocese by May 1, 2022.
- e. Council Bylaws update – The Bylaws require a committee to give consensus on each month's Parish Council agenda. It is too unwieldy to include this many people in the development of the agenda, especially since Council members are always welcome to bring up any issues at any time. The language will be changed to give the responsibility of creating the agenda to the Chairperson of the Council and the Pastor.
  - i. The present wording also says that the agenda will be published prior to the meeting and that all parishioners are welcome to attend. This will be dropped, but all parishioners are always welcome to attend, give feedback in person to a Council member or to the Pastor or send issues to Council members via email or the information box in the back of the church.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Nominating Committee – Lura Kearns chaired the last Nominating Committee. She will help the new committee through the various stages of setting a date, publishing list of duties, gathering nominations, holding the election, tabulating votes and then publishing the results. Cindy Bischoff has volunteered to head this committee this year.
- b. This year, there is one elected position and three appointed positions to be filled. We can change this to 2 elected positions and 2 appointed positions, since one of our appointees, Sandra Pultro, can have her term extended.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Hispanic Community – December was a very busy month. Observances of la Virgen de Guadalupe, las nohecitas, las posadas and Christmas were held. After Christmas, in the beginning of January, Tres Reyes was celebrated. The youth group, consisting of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic youth, has grown to a core of about 25 teens, divided into two age groups. The John 23 Movement, RCIA and the Charismatic group continue to meet and Quinceañera classes will begin next week. Also next week, Bishop Gainer will officiate at the 12:00 mass. Lastly, couples who have never had the opportunity to have a church wedding will have their marriages formalized.
- b. Parish School – Enrollment is at 209 students and enrollment and reenrollment are currently open and active. Elective online courses on potential careers are available to students in grades 6-8. All classrooms will be outfitted with a set of Chrome books. Catholic Schools Week begins on January 30, 2022.

VI. ROUNDTABLE

- a. Kelly Lynch reminded the Council that she will miss the February meeting. Cathy Loss has agreed to take minutes.

VII. NEXT MEETING is Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7 pm at the Parish Administration Office Conference Room. Please note that the meeting in March will have to move to Thursday, March 3, due to Ash Wednesday.

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER

- a. Fr. Miller closed the meeting with a blessing.

IX. TASKS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

- a. Change calendars to Thursday, March 3 for the March meeting.
- b. Jeff Topper will send updated Article VIII, Section V to Council members to read and approve.
- c. If you have not sent Jeff Topper your responses to Father Rothan's short survey please do so right away. The original survey was included in an email from Cindy Bischoff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Lynch, Recording Secretary