

March 14, 2011

➤ *Note: Symbol Denotes Action Items*

Call to Order: 7:10 p.m. – Parish Center

Opening Prayer – Patty Sisti

Pastor's Report – Father Murphy

- AT&T has finished work on the U-Verse box and fee paid to church already.
- Roof leak in upper church and ceiling damage - 2 holes were created by falling ice dams from the higher roof. Insurance company still assessing damage. Cannot repair until all the snow/ice is gone.
- Our maintenance man, Michael Veszpremi, retired after 20 years of service to our parish effective March 1, 2011. Two parties are planned – one with staff and one with the parish. Please wish Michael well in his retirement and thank him for his years of service.
- Finance Committee is looking for a service to possibly replace the maintenance opening. Looking into the service company the school uses. Justin Gilhooley (chef at the rectory) is helping Rosaire Brodeur in the meantime.
- Saint Thomas the Apostle Church profit and loss report for 2010 was presented at mass. No specific feedback from parishioners at this point.
- Snow and Fuel collection in February raised over \$8,700 (an increase over prior year collection).
- Archbishop's Annual Appeal has started and our parish goal is \$65,000.
- Church paid cathedraticum of \$16,742.00 and will pay the balance off on a monthly basis over the year.
- Received an anonymous donation of \$2700.00 given for maintenance of the sound system and flood lights in the church.

Items for Discussion (time permitting)

1. Minutes from Last Meeting – February 7, 2011 meeting minutes were accepted without amendment and will be posted to the website.
2. Old Business
 - Facebook launched and moving ahead. Updates should be submitted to the rectory (via Ellen or Suzanne) or George Coppolo. Considering Twitter presence as well.
 - Crossfire recommendations update:
 - Greeters on Sundays at 5 PM – has been a positive experience. Want to expand greeters at other masses – possibly getting a few families each week at the 10:30 AM mass; ask CCD families to help during school year.

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- Lectors began providing a context to readings at mass – it has been well received so far. Need to have more consistent delivery by lectors at each mass.
 - Greeting time before mass – timing seems awkward. Cantor should kick off before starting the processional versus when the priest arrives at the altar.
 - George to follow-up with lector coordinator about reading context consistently; and Martin/cantors about pre-mass greeting announcement
 - Copy of “big item” list of needs received from Karl Kuhn / Building Committee.
 - Planned Giving materials are now posted on the church website. George had copies available at the meeting to solicit any changes from the council.
 - Garden Club – no responses to the request for interest in the bulletin or on website. Will place more requests as its closer to spring.
 - All plants in front of the church were guaranteed for one year. Anything damaged by the winter weather will be replaced. Need to discuss placement of plantings with the landscape company to facilitate maintenance and snow removal.
 - Social Action Committee – according to our by-laws, it is one of the key committees of the parish council. So far, no leader has come forward but there may be interest.
 - George suggested the council look at updating the Parish Council by-laws to make more current.
3. Finance Committee Report (Joe McCabe gave update) – Presented finance info that was covered at masses. Saint Thomas the Apostle Church budget has been passed onto the Archbishop – must present a balanced budget. Discussion ensued about what goes into the church’s “ordinary income” amount: offertory, monthly, annual and pew rent collections (note: our church does not collect pew rent). Increases to income may be possible with a shift to electronic giving.
4. Grow the Parish Report
- Corey Rekow – Grow the Parish Financially committee met on March 10 to discuss options for electronic giving. Looking at four vendors to see what looks best for our parish. Discussed different options companies offer for people to still have something to put into the collection basket – such as a new box on the envelopes or picking up a card when entering church and placing that in the collection basket.
 - Rob Kulak brought up the possibility of obtaining annual pledges from people similar to what the Protestant churches do. People receive quarterly

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statements indicating if they are on target for their pledge amount. Parish Council agreed this was worth continued exploration.

- Patty Sisti indicated that Grow the Parish Membership has not had the opportunity to meet again. Will try for April.
5. Targeted Giving for Church Repairs (presented by George Coppolo) – A list was circulated to the Parish Council for review. The list can be added to the website. This would be a list of important items that could use specific funding to be completed. Separate accounts can be set up by Anna to capture money targeted for specific items on the list. List needs to be prioritized – preferably safety items first. Added drainage project to the list for Dover Road side of church as the last rain storm water came into the lower church.
6. New Business
- George Coppolo indicated that the church now has a digital camera that was donated as a targeted gift. The camera can be used to capture pictures of parish events and post them to our Facebook page.
 - Father Sam suggested having a presentation 2 times a year (TBD) about activities and ministries in the parish. Perhaps a video can be made to show during the event as a way to inform and recruit new volunteers. Chris Haddad might be able to find a STAY participant who would be interested in making a church video.
 - Mike DeConti provided a Knights of Columbus update.
 - March 19th is the Saint Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance at Saint Mark’s Church.
 - March 27th is a Pancake Breakfast to benefit Saint Gerard’s Center for Life.
 - April 16th is the Altar Server appreciation outing to the Rock Cat’s game.
 - Eye Glass collection – will go through month – see collection boxes around church.
 - Rosaire Brodeur mentioned the need to better advertise a “Lost and Found”
 - Ray Smith presented an upcoming mission that will be occurring for all parishes in West Hartford sponsored by West Hartford Catholic Adult Education committee. Brother Loughlin Sofield, S.T. will lead the mission. Each church in West Hartford is represented on the committee. Mission starts April 2nd and 3rd with a kick-off video at mass and continues at 7 PM that night. Then each day through April 6th there will be a 9:00 AM mass/mission session with a mission session repeated each night at 7:00 PM. Brother Loughlin is staying at Saint Mark’s rectory for the week but each parish will take turns feeding him during the mission. There will be a reception on the last night of the mission – need greeters for Sunday and Wednesday. Choir members are encouraged to participate – there will be a common theme of music for the mission.
 - Parish Council’s (Saint Thomas the Apostle and Saint Mark’s churches) should look to schedule a collaborative planning session.

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- Chris Haddad gave an update on STAY's fast. They raised over \$1300.00 which will go a long way to helping prepare many meals for Immaculate Conception shelter (it costs about \$200 per date). The "Fast" will commence with the participants not eating after dinner on Thursday night and will end when they meet at 8 PM Friday and do 4 hours of activity including cooking a meal to actually "break-fast" at midnight.
 - Teresa Duprey talked about the big fundraiser the Women's Club will do this spring – the Women's Club Bake Sale this coming weekend (March 19/20). Items can be dropped off Saturday from 9 AM – 12 PM. Healthy (non-sugar) items are being solicited as well as the traditional sweets due to those who may be observing Lenten sacrifices.
 - Colleen DiSanto mentioned the upcoming Dover Road repair work – set for spring.
7. Special Intentions – were shared by those in attendance.
 8. Closing Prayer – Jamie Sullivan

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Sisti

**Patty Sisti
Parish Council Secretary**

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Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Role	Present	Absent
Fr. Ed	Moran	Priest		X
Fr. Sam	Syed	Priest	X	
Fr. Arthur	Murphy	Pastor	X	
Dcn. Dennis	Ferguson	Deacon		X
Dcn. Kevin	Monahan	Deacon		X
George	Coppolo	Council Member - Pres	X	
Will	Huber	Council Member - VP	X	
Patty	Sisti	Council Member - Sec	X	
Rosaire	Brodeur	Council Member	X	
Kathy	Brown	Council Member	X	
Eileen	Cullen	Council Member	X	
John	Daly	Council Member	X	
Michael	DeConti	Council Member	X	
Teresa	Duprey	Council Member	X	
Angelo	Faenza	Council Member	X	
Chris	Haddad	Council Member	X	
Sally	Hanrahan	Council Member	X	
Karl	Kuhn	Council Member	X	
Rob	Kulak	Council Member	X	
Bob	Kuszpa	Council Member		X
Rachel	Lobo-Lowry	Council Member	X	
Mary Ann	Lopez	Council Member		X
Joe	McCabe	Council Member	X	
Ernesto	Pitruzzella	Council Member		X
Donna	Radigan	Council Member		X
Corey	Rekow	Council Member	X	
Jamie	Sullivan	Council Member	X	
Colleen	DiSanto	Ex-Officio Member – STA School Principal	X	
Elizabeth	Kiselica	Ex-Officio Member – Religious Education Coord		X
Martin	Smith	Ex-Officio Member – Music Director		X
Ellen	O'Connor	Parish Staff		X
Janet	Quinn	Parish Center Coord		X
Ray	Smith	Guest	X	