

# St. Petronille Church

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** The regular minutes of the St. Petronille Parish Council called to order at 7:08pm
2. **Opening Prayer:** Offered by Fr. Milota
3. **Attendance:** Present: Christy Collie—President, Fr. Thomas Milota—Pastor, Fr. Jesus Oliveros—Parochial Vicar, Molly Hoerster—Secretary, Kimberly Meinhart, Victor Trinkus, Tom Kane, Joe Dougherty, Robert Van Witzenburg, Megan Lowrie, Absent: Klovirt Alnar, Bob Hohe, and Maureen Shekleton
4. **Parishioner Participation\* (if any):** None
5. **Approval of minutes from last meeting:** Motion to approve August 19, 2021 minutes by Megan Lowry, 2nd by Molly Hoerster, and all in favor
6. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve September 21, 2021 minutes by Christie Collie, 2nd by Kimberly Meinhart, and all in favor
7. **Commission Reports**
  - a. **Finance** (Tom Kane reported): FC met last week and is in midst of approving budget for present fiscal year (July 1-June 30), which is already under way. Budget was approved with modifications. Bit like a domino effect. Timing of different reports creates a bit of a lag getting the budget set. FC decided it will not meet in person as often as in the past. No need for monthly meetings. Next in-person committee meeting isn't until February. Monthly budget report will still be provided. Parish in very good financial position despite some anomalies related to Covid. School's big increase in tuition is making a big difference. Christy recommended that Parish Council members review budget and prepare to approve it at next meeting. Tom included a list of budget highlights, which include:
    - Actual 20/21 collections exceeded \$1.5M, which will be increased by 2.5% for the 21/22 budget
    - School subsidy remains the same at \$475K for 21/22 budget
    - The 21/22 RE budget has increased by approx. \$35K from last year due to increased expense for both Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry
    - The budget includes \$103K in restricted revenue donations for capital improvements

- The budget for 21/22 RE elementary revenue, day school revenue, and preschool revenue all increased over 20/21 revenues
- Expenses that should have been incurred in 20/21 but were delayed until September 2021 because of Covid will be accrued for in 20/21 (Fr. Palmer's party and Confirmation)
- Two new employees have been hired as Financial Office support and one new employee has been added in Liturgy & Worship
- Additional priests' stipends, which had been charged to Services-Professional are now budgeted to Salaries & WagesExtra Priests/Deacons

b. **Worship** (Joseph Dougherty reported): Report was supplied in full detail, including an explanation of the commission, which includes 9 ministries (10 if you include the recording of Masses). Kimberly commented that this past Sunday, the interim sound system performed better. Other 9/7/21 WC meeting highlights included:

- WC meets first Tuesday of each month to conduct reviews of prior month and discuss upcoming ministry duties.
- Father Milota has put together a committee to discuss planning for improvement to church environment in support of parish liturgical and spiritual needs.
- John Chereskin submitted procedures to all EMCHs with goal of having 4 ministers and 2 lectors for each Mass.
- Eric Rasmussen commented that approx ten parishioners are interested in joining the choir, a good sign for increasing participation across other WC ministries.
- The parish celebrated Father Palmer's 50th anniversary a week ago Saturday with a special Mass in his honor, which he wholeheartedly enjoyed.

c. **School Board** (Robert VanWitzenburg was not present to report): School board meeting last Tuesday. Some discussion was had about vaccine mandate based on governor's directives. Opening of school was busy and successful.

d. **Religious Education** (Megan Lowrie reported): Taking care of business. Big push getting new youth and adult minister up to speed. RE enrollment is low. Getting ready to start RE classes next Wednesday, September 29th. Have just gone through the process of updating all RE policies, including removing Covid information from last year. Attempting to identify a theme for the commission.

e. **Christian Service** (Maureen Shekelton was not present to report): Lots of good stuff happening in CS. Father suggested PC take responsibility for highlighting some of the activities of CS, including volunteer opportunities, on a weekly basis through parish eNews blast. The concept would be a "Did you know" type approach. Considering hosting a Ministry Fair as has been done in the past.

f. **Parish Life** (Bob Hohe was not present to report): Parish Life commission has largely disbanded. No regular meetings at this point. Need to re-determine more

of what the commission entailed, and establish new effort to focus on new parishioner orientation, including a responsible person, process, and materials.

#### **8. Pastor's Report:**

- Fr. Palmer 50th celebration: Served approximately 150 people. Very successful and special for Fr. Palmer
- Confirmations: two ceremonies, including 87 confirmed; very positive comments from participants and guests, especially as Bishop presided
- Diocesan priest convocation: Taking place this coming week as an opportunity for priests to gather and pray with the Bishop; this event will not affect the 6:15 Mass but will turn the 8:00 Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to a communion service
- Oktoberfest: Moving forward with Oct. 23 plans, including beer, wine, and food after the 5pm Mass. The celebration is in Thanksgiving for the Lord bringing us to this point and as a reset after the struggles of the last 2 years. There will be a \$10 cover charge. Diane Makowski is doing the planning.
- Catholic Young Adult Sports: St. Petronille has contracted with this organization as part of our efforts to reinvigorate our Young Adult/Youth Ministry program; it is similar with the organization FOCUS, but is parish based, and uses sporting and other social activities as building blocks that lead eventually to other liturgical and scripture-focused opportunities. The CYAS program features a live-in missionary who will guide the program. The Young Adult/Youth Ministry program has gained traction already with its first bonfire and young adult holy hour (each with 30 in attendance).
- Capital Campaign: First meeting last week. Six different fundraisers submitted proposals, with a decision to be made by early November. Nov 4 meeting with Diocese to ask permission to begin fundraising for varied projects, including reorganization work in the school, restoration work in the church, updating parish facilities, and increasing the school's endowment.
- Church Restoration: CR committee will be presenting to Worship Committee, receiving input, and then presenting to Parish Council at either October or November meeting. The parish will begin communicating with parishioners and arranging listening sessions. The church has enlisted the help of church design firm Conrad Schmitt Studios in Milwaukee, WI.
- Physical Plant and School Reorganization: Building and Grounds Committee and school board are evaluating prospective architecture firms and will include input from faculty, staff, school parents, and parishioners.

**9. Pending Business:** None

**10. New Business:** None

**11. Executive Session (if necessary called by Pastor or President):** Not needed

**12. Closing Prayer:** Offered by Fr. Jesus

**13. Adjournment:** 8:27pm

**Next regular meeting – Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

\*Parishioners are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and speak during  
Parishioner Participation