

MINUTES SAINT EDMUND CAMPION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY 29, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Lori Brunette at 6:34 p.m. and opening prayer by Deacon Phil.

Those present: Chickie Amberg, Lori Brunette, Sheila DeLaura, Leo Forte, Deacon Phil Gosselin, Fr. John Gwozda, Barbara Hanson, Laraine Olinatz, Joan Perrone, Elizabeth Shaker, Anne Marie Volowski, Jim Wilson,

Anne Marie Volowski made a motion to accept the November 26, 2018 minutes as written, Barbara Hanson seconded the motion. All in Favor and the minutes were approved and filed.

Pastor's Report: Work continues at OLP to replace the heating/cooling system.

The Parish Facebook page continues to gain new friends. There were 140 Likes (Friends), and daily updates were posted regarding Maddie Gay and Gina Marie Garabedian's journey. Feedback to Fr. John indicated that people thought that posting obituaries on Facebook was a good idea. Fr. John will continue to post school items, church decorations, etc.

Chickie Amberg was present... She had seen Laurie Janecko's name in the Transcript, and Deacon Phil's homily inspired her to come and speak about the possibility of our parish sponsoring a refugee family. It was suggested that we might have Laurie come to speak to us. Chickie will reach out to her and ask if she might meet with the Parish Council at next month's meeting.

Deacon Phil discussed the idea of "adopting a refugee family." Can we afford it? Do we have parishioners who are willing to work with them? He agreed that he would talk to the Archdiocesan Office for Refugee Assistance. Fr. John said that we could possibly use the OLOP rectory for a home for a refugee family. Fr. has not spoken to Archdiocese about this yet. Expense? Food, utilities, etc. Can we afford it? Do we have enough people to keep watch over them and keep in contact with them? Lori asked what is the time frame that they need assistance. Phil said that it will be a transitional thing; but he does not have any specifics. If Archdiocese Catholic Charities has a map on what to do, we need to get the information from them. We would only do one family. Lori asked where would the finances come from? Repairs would be needed to the rectory if we were to use it for this purpose. No decision will be made until we have more information.

We need to address the policy of what to do during harsh weather. Father said that there will always be a Mass on Sat or Sun at St. Chris, as the priests live right next door. However, OLOP is a 2 mile ride for the priests. He said that if newspeople recommend that we stay off roads, then we should all stay off roads. So, priests would not make it to OLOP, and there would be no Mass. If there is a cancellation of the Mass, he will post it on Channel 3. God does not want us to injure ourselves. Currently, there is no set policy for weekday Masses. Lori suggested that we put in bulletin that all should check channel 3 for cancellations.

Fr. John stated that we need to make parishioners aware of the devotions we have on Wednesday nights. The format has been corrected and new meditations have been written for the Scriptural Rosary (6:00 1 hour of adoration, then a novena, then scriptural rosary.) The devotions end at 7:45 p.m. He asked the Council members to spread the word.

Chickie went to St. Bartholomew where sex trafficking was discussed. She was moved by what she heard. She has data from the Social Action Committee of the Archdiocese... nearby, a family had 2 girls abducted. Glastonbury had an author talk about this subject. She wanted the reaction of the PC. She said that this problem is in this area. It is a real problem. Rocky Hill and other parishes have had a prayer service on this subject. It was suggested by Chickie that the principal of St. Christopher School be at a PC meeting to hear about this. For 20 years there was a sex dungeon in a local hotel. Because of our CT economy, it is more profitable to run these types of things. She would like to talk to the principal, and also speak with the teachers. She would like

to have a poster on sex trafficking put up in the school. Fr. John suggested that it might be good to have a police officer talk to us, as they have first-hand experience because of their jobs. Chickie will speak to us again in March about this subject.

President's Report:

If a Parish Council meeting must be cancelled, e.g. because of weather, a mass e-mail will be sent by Lori, and Joan and Lori will call everyone as well.

Lori will be starting a new job soon, and will be permanently on day shift. She asked if the members would prefer to start our meetings at 6:00. It was agreed to keep it at 6:30.

She will be reaching out to Richard Buck soon to discuss the Parish Pictorial. She is still looking for volunteers to help promote and work the photo shoots. She will be putting requests for volunteers in the bulletin.

Lori asked for suggestions on how we can we show our appreciation to all the Ministries/Committees? So much goes on behind the scenes, that it would be nice if faces were put with the ministries and to recognize them for doing a GREAT job! How can we do this? She essentially wants a way to say thank you. Fr. suggested that we put information on these in the church bulletin; but would ask the persons if it is ok to use their names. Barbara Hanson asked that we make sure people from both churches would be recognized equally. Ann Marie suggested that we feature a different ministry each month to recognize their efforts.

Lori is continuing to work on the Ministry booklet and will be reaching out to some Ministries to put a blurb together for this booklet.

CPR training... Lori would like to call Red Cross to see what it would take for them to give a CPR class. She is certified in CPR but is looking for people in the congregation who are interested to know what to do; not necessarily become certified. With an incident that happened a few months back, it would be nice if others would know what to do in an emergency. It was suggested that we should have an AED in the church area. Lori will check on cost to have the Red Cross come to do a CPR course.

Lori will be reaching out to other Parishes in the Deanery soon. She took the first step and liked as many Facebook pages as I could find. This will also help us to know what other Parishes are doing that we might like to do.

Lori has noticed on Facebook that other Parishes are having Archbishop Blaire celebrate Mass with them. Would we like to invite him to a Mass? Per Fr. John, you usually have to give about 1 year notice to have him come to our parish, and there has to be a real reason to have them come. It is believed that the recent Mass that was held in Manchester is red to reparation of priests' sexual predation problem.

Sheila mentioned that the pictures of St. Chris do not have the Marian Garden in them. It was agreed that we will have someone take a picture of it in the Spring.

MINISTRY REPORTS: Altar Committee – Bonnie Szalay
Nothing to Report

Altar Server - Bonnie Szalay

Contact still needs to be made with potential new servers. This should happen in the next couple of weeks now that the holidays are behind us.

Buildings & Ground – Stephen Roczynski

Facilities Committee update for 1-14-19

Current status:

- 1) OLOP Heating and Cooling upgrades Underway, I am working with beacon on scheduling with the cold weather.
- 2) Fire alarm panel at St. Christopher's campus was completed we now do not need the phone lines for the fire alarm panels as we are monitored direct by the EH Fire dept.
- 3) I would like to see how the council feels on going out to bid on the church hall as it needs to be completed at some point as due to its age.
- 4) I would like to see how the council feels about taking the OLOP campus on the same fire alarm monitor direct with the town to not have to have the phone lines there as well.
- 5) I am still meeting with contractors about the stair railing at the church on the altar.
- 6) I am still working on adding the plugs on the on the choir loft.

Addition to Building and Grounds Report:

1st the new boiler is in and the air handlers are in progress

Ask the OLOP parishioners how they feel about amount of time to get hot water

Make a note that peter is doing a great job on the parking as far as I can see (ask if anyone has concerns or issues with the snow removal)

I will also have a report for father on recommended fixes on heating units (like fan heaters and zone valves) not included in the project but found now that they are into system. I don't have full list yet but I will get list and pricing asap.

Addition #2: I have a report for Fr. John on recommended fixes on heating units (like for heaters and zone valves.) They were not included in the project but found now that they are into system. I don't have a full list yet but will get list and pricing ASAP.

Chancel Choir Ministry – Roberta De Fiore

Nothing to Report

Consolation – Jean Nowik

Nothing to Report

Counters - Bonnie Szalay

Al and Bev Plefka, one of our supervising couples, are leaving this ministry due to health issues. Barbara Hanson will take their place and become one of our new supervising individuals.

Decorating – Lori Brunette

An email was put out asking for help to de-decorate St. Christopher's Campus Church. De-decorating happened on 1/13/19 after the Mass of The Baptism of the Lord and I thank all those who came to help. Next time decorating will happen with be for Lent / Easter. Again, I will be putting out an email asking for helpers.

Extraordinary Minister – Sheila DeLaura

We made it through the holidays with no real issues. The schedule was easy as we only had to schedule 2 EM's for each mass and none at 8:00. We discontinued the cup until flu season ends. That also made scheduling easier.

We also have some good news this month,

Many thanks to Father Joseph. We now have 9 new people for EM's. We will try to make the orientation training and the rubrics training sessions at the same time. As of today, it is scheduled after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday February 20th. The training session will be held by Father Joseph.

Family Choir – Toni Mintel

Thanksgiving Outreach to Genesis (formerly Salmon Brook) was well attended by choir participants and audience. We were asked to return; and did so on December 21st and strolled caroling from room to room. This Christmas outreach program was also well attended by adults and children alike and well received by residents. Next outreach will be planned around Valentine's Day.

Christmas Pageant takes place this Sunday during the CCD session. There are a few children participating who also participate with the family choir. Children's Liturgy on 12/16 had 12 participants.

Two additional parishioners have asked to join the 7:30 choir this past week.

If all attend, we have 13 regular and 2-3 floaters which is encouraging considering how early the Mass is. Many of these individuals assist when we provide music for the Holy Days throughout the year.

Food Bank – Diane Warner

We had a great turnout of donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Fund Raising - Barbara Hanson

Nothing to Report

Greeters – Anne Marie Volowski

On December 20, 2019, 3 new parish greeters were blessed and commissioned, and their badges blessed at the 10:30 A.M. Sunday Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family. Father John Gwozdz presided. I had called up 2 of the 3 new greeters: Chickie Amberg and Elizabeth Shaker of the St. Christopher Campus. Missing for Our Lady of Peace Campus was Barbara Folwes. Also, is still applications for new greeters. Will have another recruiting meeting for new greeters in the future.

Home Bound – Barbara Casey

A total of 8 ministers go to homebound, plus 7 additional persons seen. Total 29

HomeFront – Deacon Phil Gosselin

St. Edmund Campion Parish will have a team working on HomeFront Day 2019! HomeFront Day is always the 1st Saturday in May. We have been publicizing in the bulletin about the opportunity for anyone in the parish that could you use the assistance of HomeFront to apply. It's great to help an East Hartford neighbor in need; it would be extra special to assist a parishioner in need.

Hospitality – Leo Forte

Hospitality Sundays in November and December went well. First Communion 2nd Grade is scheduled for January 27th. Maria will continue to solicit help from parents, and we will send out notification to Hospitality committee distribution about a week in advance. Feedback from members indicates that the monthly emails are effective. Parishioner/committee support has been good. Reminders will also be utilized for the Soup & Stations in March and April. Per Bonnie, there is a new parishioner interested in joining the Hospitality committee. We will reach out when contact information is available. I would like to discuss the quarterly parishioner get-togethers that were proposed at this Parish Council meeting (contacts for both campuses, who is willing to help, etc.). At this point, our goal would be to schedule one for each campus, but we need to discuss

the logistics and timing (now that we are past Christmas, but maybe wait until the weather and temperatures improvesomewhat).

Knights of Columbus – Ernie Mintel

We have been putting in weekly bulletin notices to keep the parish informed of our K of C activities. We had a holiday dinner and gift exchange in December. We are planning a St. Patrick's Day Dinner in March ; and we are having a Lent Fish Fry on the Friday after Ash Wednesday at OLOP campus to benefit the PIN program. The next Fourth Degree Exemplification will be in April and the next Second and Third Degree advancement will be at the end of January.

Lectors - Bonnie Szalay Nothing to Report

Library – Joan Perrone

Work continues on the logging in all of the books located in the library. A few new items have been added to the library, including a DVD filmed in front of a live audience at the Living Waters Theater in Lancaster, Pa, entitled "Joseph" (a touching musical about Joseph, which includes his flying over the audience in his colored coat.). There are already two other DVDs from the Living Waters Theater, "In the Beginning," (a musical about Adam and Eve, including animatronic animals) and "Noah," (which also includes several animatronic animals). You don't have to travel to Lancaster to see their shows...just borrow one of these DVDs. We are pleased to see that parishioners continue to borrow books from the library...that makes the work well worth the effort.

Outreach – Marie Garabedian

December was a very busy month at the school, filled with so much excitement and fun happenings. The annual Santa Breakfast was a lovely morning. A delicious breakfast cooked by our Knights of Columbus and many activities made it a fun filled morning for the Children and Families alike. Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus and all the parishioners who helped make this a successful event every year. Then, on December 18th, the Children preformed in their annual Christmas concert, the Band played beautifully, and the Children lifted their voices in song, it was a very beautiful and festive start to the Christmas season.

Coming up the last week of January is the annual "Catholic School's week" filled with many fun activities for the Children, as well as our parishioners. On Wednesday January 30, 2019, the Children invite everyone to a special event, "Pastry with the Parishioners". This is the 3rd year this event has been offered. Please stop in the School after the daily Mass, all are invited to join the Students, enjoy some breakfast treats, and some special performances from the Children. r that night is the Science Fair, coupled with the "Grab & Go Grinder night". Grinders are available to order in advance they are \$8.00 for an 8" and \$14 for a 16". (Flyer is attached here) The options are Ham, Turkey or a Combination. You are all invited to place an order on line for your Grinders. When you go to pick up your order, please feel free to stay and view the projects of our Young Scientist. The Children sincerely hope you can attend either one or both events as they look forward to having the parishioners visit.

2019 marks the 20th Anniversary of our annual Auction. As a reminder...please save the date, Saturday April 27, 2019. The committee is busy planning this fun annual event. They are securing very nice items for Auction. This year, we will again have the Beer & Wine tastings, a live band, a catered Dinner, the Pizza Truck, Cupcake truck and a new offering of an Ice Cream truck, where you're invited on board to order your own Ice Cream Sundae!!! Sound like fun?? I can assure you it will be a fun night! Should anyone have an item for donation or if you'd like more info, please feel free to contact Marie at 860-836-5514. You will be hearing more about this exciting evening in the Church Bulletin also.

PIN – Toni Mintel

Bulletin notices were inserted in December to encourage donations via the envelopes at the entrances. I have not received any information of donations received.

Question - are gift cards still sold which partly benefit the school? When we purchase a gift card for a PIN recipient through that program, the school also benefits but I didn't hear of any gift card selling after the Masses this past Christmas season and I would have thought that would generate some income for the school. Perhaps the problem was volunteer coverage.

Prayer Line – Sally Ann Tanasi

Nothing to Report

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Santa Vallone

On behalf of our ministry, Father John presented prayer shawls to our WYD pilgrims during the 10:30 Mass on January 13.

Prayer/Sharing Group – Barbara Hanson

Our Prayer/Sharing Group held its final 2018 meeting on Thursday, November 15th. Even with the snow we had eight people attend. We had pizza and watched the movie “Heaven is for Real” as a celebration of our gathering this year.

We will start up again in the spring – usually the week after Easter.

We have a Core Group that is responsible for running the weekly meetings that include Barbara Veci, Phyl Tyrseck, Leo Forte, Pat Roberge and Barbara Hanson.

All members of St. Edmund Campion Parish and their friends are invited to attend. The evening consists of Prayer, Song, Scripture Sharing and Friendship. Refreshments are served following each meeting and all are welcome to stay. Please join us – we would love to have you come.

Prolife – Deacon Phil Gosselin

For Prolife, the Knights of Columbus, Council 4 participated in and invited the parish to join, 9 Days for Life. 9 Days for Life is a multi-faceted novena for the respect and protection of every human life. Each day, from January 14 - 22, 2019, a different intention is accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and red information. This was sent to us via email. The program was sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Publicity – Leo Forte

The Saint Edmund Campion Parish (Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace, and Saint Christopher Churches) official Facebook page is doing very well. Father John reviews and approves visitor posts, and we have continuously posted information to the page on a regular basis (church events, parishioner news, inspirational messages, etc.). Page likes and follows are still increasing but at a slower rate than when the page was first created. The "Find Us on Facebook" note should be permanently included on the front page of the weekly Church bulletin. All visitor posts and accompanying photos are welcome and encouraged (136 likes, 139 followers to date). Photography and reporting of Church events are being covered by our own parishioners and Confirmation students. We regularly post the Hospitality Sunday events on the Facebook page, and began submitting them to the Gazette in December. Publicity for monthly Social club meetings is handled by Joan (Church bulletin and Gazette). Bill Doak, publisher and contact for the Gazette, is on board with supporting our efforts. All noteworthy items should continue to be submitted to Bonnie for the weekly Church bulletin.

Religious Education (K-8) – Maria Sousa

We are continuing with our community service drive. This month we are collecting Coats, Hats and Gloves. If anyone would like to make any donations, you can give them to me, and we will be sending them to the Hartford Worker House.

On January 6th, we had the children's Christmas play, it was well done. Pam Maragnano who is one of our 5th grade teachers coordinated the play this year. It was very well attended.

Sunday January 6th we also had the catechist/family holiday get together, after the 10:30 Mass. We had pizza, beverages and dessert. It was a nice way to start the New Year, and to thank everyone for all they do for the students and St. Edmund Campion Church.

This month we are having a prayer retreat for all the 5th to 8th grade students. January 13th, we had grades 5 and 7th in the chapel and on Jan. 20th, 6 and 8th grade students. We are trying to introduce different ways of praying into their lives.

Deacon Phil is preparing three older students for Reconciliation and First Communion. Two students from our Religious Education Program and one student from St. Christopher School.

On January 16, four of us attended the Catechist Workshop at Holy Family Retreat Center. The theme of the Workshop was "Supporting Parents in their Ministry as Primary Catechists".

Please keep our second-grade students from our religious education program and St. Christopher School in prayer, as they get prepared for their first Reconciliation on March 2nd.

The next children's Mass will be Jan. 27th with 2nd grade hosting.

Happy New Year everyone!

Social Club – Joan Perrone

As of December 31, 2018, there were 139 paid members of the social club. 2019 dues are now due, so we do not know at this time what the 2019 membership number will be.

On November 19, 2018, the social club held their annual Bingo Meeting. Approximately 65 members were in attendance. The afternoon started with a short business meeting, followed by 10 Bingo games and dessert.

On December 17, 2018, the club held their annual Christmas Party, at the Manchester Country Club. After a delicious lunch, there was a carol sing-along, and a visit from Frosty the Snowman. It was a very successful event. Approximately 86 members were in attendance.

The next social club meeting will be on Monday, January 21, 2019. This will be a Memorial Mass at 10:00 a.m. celebrated by Fr. John, in memory of the deceased members of the Blessed Sacrament Ladies Guild, Our Lady of Peace Retirees Club, St. Christopher Social Club, and St Edmund Campion Social Club. Members have been selected to act as altar servers, lectors, gift bearers, greeters, Eucharistic ministers, and choir members, as well as several members who volunteered to cook and serve the meal. A program will be handed out by the greeters with the names of the hymns, and the names of the participants. After the Mass, there will be a Communion Breakfast for members only, consisting of ham, eggs, bagels, etc. This is the second Mass with the combined club; and it is hoped that it will become an annual event. Last year the Mass was very well attended, with 83 members in attendance; and very much appreciated by the members.

Saint Edmund Campion Award – Jim Wilson

The award nominations have been closed. We have received 2 Teen and 6 Adult nominations. We will review them, and the committee will meet next Thursday 1/10/19 to discuss them.

Vacation Bible Camp – Maria Sousa

Nothing to Report

Youth Ministry and Confirmation – Kristi Gillespie

No Report submitted

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Packets with Minutes, etc., being mailed to PC members without e-mails are large and costly to mail. Lori said that as soon as the packets are complete, we will leave them at the rectory. The members will then be notified that they may pick them up during rectory hours.

Deacon Phil mentioned that we have Memorial Mass in November for those who were deceased during that year. Should we do the same thing for those baptized in that year? Perhaps celebrate it on the Baptism of the Lord. Fr. liked that idea, and said he would build it into the baptism process. We will start in November for those who were baptized in 2019.

OLOP does not have Missalette hard covers; but St. Christopher does. Should we remove the Missalette covers from St. Christopher Campus? Concensus was that we would continue to keep the covers for the Missalletes at St. Christopher Campus of Saint Edmund Campion and replace them as they become too worn.

MEMBERS CONCERNS:

It was asked if it was possible to do hospitality gatherings on a Sunday afternoon so can include both campuses. Fr. John said Sunday afternoons are a good idea. He also said the Fish Fry brings St. Chris people to OLOP, and he is continuing Friday night stations at OLOP. It seems to be a good time for everyone to get together as a parish family. Perhaps alternate months at each campus. It was decided that perhaps the picnic could be at OLOP and dinners at St. Chris.

Liz Shaker brought to our attention no light shining on Blessed Mother is out. Fr. John said that he would see that this was taken care of.

It was suggested that we need more lighting under side statues in church.

Regarding the St. Edmund Campion Award, Jim Wilson had spoken to Fr. John and there will be a posthumous award for one of them. Announcement will be made on March 3rd, and will be published in the bulletin. The awards will be presented at a Saturday evening Mass. There will be no youth award, as there were no nominations for this category.

CLOSING PRAYER was said by Deacon Phil

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Feb. 18th at 6:30 p.m. Location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Perrone, Secretary