

November 15, 2011

## 1) PREFACE

The meeting was called to order by Bruce Schmidt

## 2) ATTENDANCE

*Parish Council Members:* R. Cheeks, K. Crispin, A. Hoberg, J. Kline, R. Menas, J. Navarro, JJ Navarro (youth rep.), S. Rieman, B. Schmidt, W. Stann

*Absent:* J. Mazelon, S. Smith (youth rep.)

*Staff Present:* Fr. John, Brigitte Schmidt, E. Gibson

*Guest(s):* Donna Bockstanz (Liturgy), Jenny Palla (Corporator)

## 3) OPENING PRAYER

Fr. John read 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28). Adam's choices equal death; Jesus' choices were in keeping to God's plan which equals LIFE. This reading is one of HOPE – the difficulties that we experience and the temptations will be righted when JESUS comes again.

## 4) OLD BUSINESS

### a) *Approval of September 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes*

- i) There was discussion concerning the signs for the recycling bins – were they purchased or made? When the Parish Council Meeting was held, the signs were going to be purchased, but in the end Karen Seabright made them. Guidelines covering the usage of the recycling bins will be made and the parishioners informed. The minutes were approved.

### b) *Status on the review of the Constitution and By-Laws*

- i) The Executive Committee will meet and review in November.

### c) *FY (Jul 2011 – June 2012) Goals for Ministries*

- i) The majority of the chairpersons are on the Parish Council. We are requesting that they submit the goals of their committees to the Parish Council. Once received, the goals will be reviewed. We want to ensure that we are all focused and working together in building the community of God.

### d) *Status of the Lending Library*

The books have been donated to the Apostleship of the Sea. These are people who are away from home (out at sea) for long periods of time and are in need of good reading material. John Navarro helped to coordinate the donation of the books to them. The book shelves will be moved to the Parish Office in the near future.

### e) *Advent Wreath Making Project*

- i) The Advent Wreath Making will be held on December 3, 2011 from 9am-2pm. This will be a fundraiser for the Youth Ministry's trip to *Encounter* in July 2012. The Parish Council members chose this activity because so many parishioners in the past have enjoyed it immensely and it brings us all together in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

## 5) New Business

- a) "Grace Before Meals, Spirituality for all ages"

# ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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The Adult Faith Formation has scheduled Fr. Leo Patalinghug to come and speak at our parish on December 2, 2011. At this time 55 tickets out of 100 have been sold. Fr. Leo is a wonderful speaker and we hope that no one misses out on this great opportunity to grow in faith.

## b) *Stewardship*

i) *Planning Committee* – The “Building up the Body of Christ” is what the Archdiocese is calling the “parish planning” that they are doing in light of the shortage of priests and the economy. They requested that we send three people (corporator, parish council member and a finance committee member) to attend a meeting that was held in September. Next, the Archdiocese will assign each region a facilitator from the Office of Planning. As of now, we haven’t been told who our facilitator will be. When we are assigned a facilitator, a meeting will be held and discussions of future churches being clustered/paired with other churches that are compatible. They will be looking at statistics such as the number of marriages, baptisms, RCIA candidates, growth potential. One concern for St James would be that they are looking at the “now” versus the “future”. At this stage there is not a lot of clarity from the Archdiocese. We are waiting for the next step, which will probably be in January 2012. We want to be prepared for that meeting. For example, we will need to ensure that there is a chairperson for the Evangelization Committee and that all the committees have goals in place.

## ii) *Finance*

At the Finance Committee meeting they discussed the attendance and collections and compared/contrasted the trends from a few years back with the present time. Attendance has been down and so has income/collections. Some ideas were discussed such as networking with people asking them to attend Mass, to send a letter to parishioners informing them of what is happening and requesting their help by increasing their weekly giving by \$5 and presenting to them what the status of our finances. It was decided that all three needed to be done, but to send the letter right away and have Fr. John inform the parishioners. The Finance Committee also decided to mail out commitment cards – this has been done and some of the cards have already been returned.

There was discussion on different ways to inform the parishioners of our weekly/monthly financial status so that they can be better informed. The Finance Committee will come up with a format that will allow the parishioners to see the current state of the churches finances and have it placed in the bulletin and online.

We need to encourage and reach out to everyone to attend Mass. It is important to stay united and help one another and the church is a wonderful place for both.

## **6) Closing Prayer**

The next meeting will be January 17, 2012 at 7:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Rieman