

January Parish Council Meeting

Jan. 11, 2021

- Opening Prayer
 - Our Father – Dedicated to Peace in our World
- Christmas Recap/Invite
 - Christmas invite to parishioners (postcard) and local community (hang tags) went well
 - About a dozen people reached out to Father Frank and many signed in to watch Christmas mass
 - Christmas collection was average
 - Father Frank felt Advent could have been more powerful, but was a bit disappointing given the pandemic
- Mass Attendance
 - Approximately 100 people are joining in-person masses
- Reservation
 - Need to make it clear on where to reserve to attend mass on the website
- Drive Up Communion
 - Averaging approximately 25 people per Sunday
- Mass Livestream
 - Approximately 400-600 people joining mass each Sunday
- Alpha
 - Alpha is starting again on January 21st from 7-8:30 PM.
 - 81 people signed-up so far from all around Chicagoland
 - People can sign-up at this link: <https://teresa.church/alpha/>
- Upcoming Events
 - LGBT perspectives on spirituality event - February 24th
 - Dialog night with St Mary of the Angels - March 12
 - Church in China by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Ian Johnson - March 24
 - Parish mission on racism - led by three Jesuits the week before Holy Week (exact dates TBD)
- Lent/Easter
 - Will considering adding a Sunday 6PM mass for lent (plan to livestream in addition to the 10 AM mass)
 - Ash Wednesday is February 17th; the parish is awaiting guidance from the diocese on how this ritual will be handled given pandemic restrictions
 - In the Italian culture priests sprinkle ashes on the person's head during the celebration of Ash Wednesday. This may be considered an option as the priest would not be required to touch a person's head.
 - The parish is also considering additional, shorter masses to accommodate greater attendance
- Lent/Easter Invitation

- Given the success of the Christmas invitation, the parish is considering during another invitation to parishioners and the local community
 - Father Frank/Katie to work on an initial draft of this copy and share it with Parish Council for review
 - The message will be one of healing and renewal
- Lent Activities
 - During lent a Wednesday night bible study on the Gospel of Mark will also be available
 - Father Frank may also provide a recommended book list
 - Operation Rice Bowl will try to be implemented
- Healing Our Nation
 - Father Frank felt like more people tuned in to mass this weekend to see how church would respond to political/capitol events
 - Father Frank's homily spoke to the importance of developing a good character/the importance of the character of our country's leadership vs. delving too deeply into politics
 - Need to continue to preach peace and unity
 - Book recommended by PC member: Hate Inc. by Matt Taibbi
- Grocery store Opening on Armitage that sells Liquor
 - Go Grocery – Described as an upscale version of a Trader Joe's
 - Small section that sells alcohol so Father Frank was asked if the Parish had any concerns
 - PC has no concerns
- February Meeting
 - Next meeting will be on February 8th at 6PM
 - Note: Time is being changed to 6PM vs. 7PM to accommodate parish staff attendance
- Closing Prayer
 - Our Father