

February Parish Council: Meeting Notes

February 8, 2021

AGENDA/MEETING NOTES

1) Opening Prayer

- a) Holy Spirit Prayer

2) Prayers for the Homeless

- a) Need to pray for the homeless in the city due to the life-threatening cold
- b) Organizations reaching out to help the poor such as "CHI" brings blankets, coats, warm meals, etc. Please keep them in your prayers.

3) Lent & Distribution of Door Hang Tags

a) Lent is a week from Wednesday, February 17th

- b) Having 5 masses on Ash Wednesday to alleviate any fear of coming to church in person
- c) Lent door tags are supposed to be distributed this week
- d) Kate still thinks they can distribute the door tags with the young adult group despite the cold

4) Ash Wednesday

- a) Distributing ashes via Q-tips; burning them afterwards
- b) Nothing will be spoken; general statement ahead of ash distribution (from ashes you came, to ashes you will return)
- c) Will also offer a small bag of ashes for families
- d) Communion will also be given
- e) A couple Ash Wednesday masses will be live streamed (likely 6pm and 7pm)

5) Restart of 6:00 pm Sunday mass

- a) Starting February 21st
- b) Will be live streamed along with 10am mass
- c) Having more mass options may make it easier for more people to attend
- d) Improved mass registration and volunteer

6) Catholic Appeal

- a) 36-37K; typically we get 75-80K per year for the Catholic appeal
- b) New texting approach to donating – this method seems more effective than even the typical envelopes

7) Holy Week

- a) Simple Holy Week
- b) Early Easter Vigil at 7PM
- c) Holy Thursday – simple procession, no washing of feet
- d) Good Friday – No typical veneration of the cross, but a shorter version; communion
- e) Sunday Masses – 10am and 12pm (both live streamed)

8) Reaching parishioners during the pandemic

- a) How do we communicate with parishioners in an on-going way? How do we invite people/build community in a safe way? Feel like there is a lot of inconsistent management of what is essential/what can be done in person. We are an incarnation religion and in-person meeting is very important to what we believe.
- b) Father Frank is not sure our parish can survive another 6 months without being able to bring people together. Looking for ways to bring the parish together in person in a safe way

9) Outreach Programs

- a) Gospel of Mark: Every Monday during lent at 6PM, the gospel of Mark
- b) Faith Sharing: Kate is doing faith sharing on Sunday readings
- c) LGBTQ: Mark doing an LGBTQ event on Building a Bigger Table on 2/24 (7-8)
 - i) Flora X. Tang, a theology and peace studies PhD student at the University of Notre Dame on the place of LGBT Catholics in the modern church.

10) Importance of Eucharist/Maintaining our Catholic faith

- a) How do we nourish our parishioners with more information about our faith? Education on catechesis at each mass.
- b) Down to 24 new priests in Chicago diocese
- c) Idea: 8 week education series – like a teaching mass for the sacraments, etc. (Like second part of Alpha) Ex. Eucharist, Reconciliation; consider the including a witness of a parishioner)
- d) Consider 6 (10 minute videos)
- e) Belong, Believe, Behave

11) March Meeting: March 8th

- a) In person and via Zoom at 7PM

12) Closing Prayer