

St. Francis Xavier
Parish Council Meeting
February 14, 2023

Members Present: Father Dale Cieslik, Louis Leppert, Shannon Age, Nancy Collett, Joey Followay, Pattie Mattingly, Keith Meyer, Matt O'Connor, Alexandra Rogers, Paula Silliman, Chris Williams

Members Absent: Ed Scott, Jim Ernsperger

Meeting opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Lou Leppert directed a review of the January, 2023 minutes. Chris Williams moved the minutes to be approved as written; Joey Followay seconded; all in favor. Minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report

Father Dale announced the schedule for Lent and Holy Week, 2023:

- Ash Wednesday Mass - Feb 22 at 7:00 pm
- Holy Thursday Mass - April 6 at 7:00 pm
- Good Friday Stations of the Cross - 3:00 pm
- Good Friday Mass - April 7 at 7:00 pm
- Easter Vigil - April 8 at 8:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Masses - April 9 at 9:00 am and 11:00 am
- The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10.

Father shared other important upcoming dates from his calendar:

- There is a Priests' Region Meeting February 23 at 1:00 pm at All Saints Church.
- The next Parish Staff Meeting is February 28 at 3:00 at the Xavier Center.
- Fr. Dale will lead mass at Sanders Ridge Health Campus on March 2 at 1:30 with Cathy Taylor and Gerry Linton
- There will be a Parish Staff Retreat on Monday, March 13. The Parish Office will be closed.
- Second graders will have their First Penance on March 11 at 1:00 pm
- Second graders will celebrate their First Communion on April 23 at 11:00.
- Eighth graders will have their Confirmation Mass on May 23 at 7:00 with Archbishop Shelton.
- The Confirmation Retreat Penance Service will be March 25 at the Nazareth Retreat Center.
- Father Dale will have a meal with Archbishop Shelton at his home on Feb. 28
- The winners of the AuctionFest Meal with the Archbishop will have that dinner on March 16.

- Feed the Hungry Event will be March 26 from 12pm - 2pm in the Xavier Center. Our goal is to put together more than 20,000 meals for the mission area.
- Fr. Dale will lead the prayer at the City Council Meeting on March 27 at 6:30 pm.
- The St. Francis Xavier Summer Festival will be Saturday, June 10.

Father Dale's personal upcoming dates and obligations include:

- Retreat at St. Meinrad, IN - March 6-10 inclusive
- Priests' Personnel Board - March 14 at 1:00 pm.
- Priests' Support Group - March 21 at 1:00 pm at Fr. Jerry's home
- Priests' Assembly - June 5-8 inclusive at St. Meinrad, IN
- The next Parish Staff Meetings are Nov. 22 and Dec. 20 at 3:00 pm.

Old Business

- Father Dale is working on choosing names for the Xavier Center rooms. He will speak more on this at the March meeting.
- Father gave an update on the Xavier Center's kitchen floor. There is a phone meeting scheduled for this Thursday to decide whether to ask the same company to redo the job again or to hire a new company.
- Chris Williams gave an AuctionFest Report. We raised \$24,500. We budgeted \$30,000, so we fell short of the goal, but are satisfied with the amount raised. The chili supper was well attended.
- The Valentine's Dance was a fun event for the community. Approximately 250 people attended.
- The Knights of Columbus' Fish Fry was the last Friday in January. It was successful. They will resume their Fish Fries every Friday of Lent.

New Business

- Lisa Reed will lead Interactive Stations of the Cross in the RE Building on March 31 and April 1 from 12pm-7pm. Paula described the interactive piece to the council.
- Rob Hayden will lead the regular Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent at 6:00 pm and at 3:00 pm on Good Friday.
- Paula Silliman reported on the opportunity for members of the parish to attend Funeral Pre-Planning Meetings. This is a chance to give one last gift to your family by pre-planning the music, readings, and other details of your funeral service. There was one meeting in January.
- Father Dale announced that the Archdiocese of Louisville has established new guidelines on Parish Council. Our council is compliant at this time and we will discuss further at the next meeting.
- Joey Followay reported that the Super Raffle Committee is considering increasing the amount of the cash prize from \$20,000 to \$25,000 as more of an incentive to purchase tickets. The car has not been available for display in recent years due to lack of stock, and ticket sales have declined. Council members had discussion and made the recommendation to keep the amount of the prize the same. Changes in the economy make it harder to sell tickets at this time and we want to make a smart business decision.

Committee Reports

Administration

Chris Williams gave a report from Office Manager, Helen Hagan.

- The parish raised \$24,503 from Auction Fest this year.
- We will soon be offering Venmo as an option for all online giving, along with Paypal and other current options.
- A new church envelope company has been hired. If you currently receive envelopes but would like to stop, or vice versa, please let Helen Hagan know at the church office.
- New furniture will be ordered this week for the Xavier Center foyer to provide a welcoming space.
- Effective February 20, the Amazon Smile Program is ending.
- Window tinting has been added to the lower Parish Hall new windows for privacy and heating purposes.

Formation

Paula Silliman reported the following:

The Women's Retreat will be March 18. So far, 20 women have registered for the event.

The Staff Retreat will be March 13.

Vacation Bible School will be June 19-23. We will be sharing a VBS kit with St. Gabriel to reduce costs.

We are looking for a new facilitator for a weekly Bible Study.

There will be two children joining the church through RCIA later in the year at a private mass.

Men's Retreat will be this weekend at the Xavier Center. 33 men have registered so far.

Parish Life

- Nancy Collett reported that the Prayer Blanket Committee is learning how to crochet on February 14 and 21. They are under new leadership of Mary Lee and Judi Salmon.
- The JOY Club is planning a trip to Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg, and Historic Norfolk in April.

Stewardship

Ed Scott sent in a report from the February 7 Stewardship Committee meeting.

- We now have Volleyball being offered on Monday nights for high schoolers and above from 6 to 8 pm, organized by the Siegels.
- A very successful Polar Express Movie night was led by Lisa Reed.
- There have been requests for open gym time, but no one has stepped up to lead that yet. We are working to find someone to fill that gap.
- New stewardship forms for the current stewardship drive were reviewed. There is a section on the back of the form to list ministries that our parishioners would like to see added. The committee will review that feedback at their March or April meeting.

- The PDS system used to track our parish members is being replaced soon, and Jennifer is working on cleaning up the current information before the migration occurs.
- We currently have over 800 families in PDS, but we believe the actual number of active families is much lower. We will discuss a project to reach out to families we believe may no longer be active at our next meeting in March.
- The committee discussed reasons why other area churches may be doing better at attracting younger members. We will continue discussing ways we can attract younger families in future meetings.
- The next Stewardship meeting will be on March 7th at 7pm.

Worship

Joey Followay reported the following from the Worship Committee:

- Father Dale has published the schedule for Ash Wednesday through June, 2023.
- Derby Day Mass will be at 5:00 pm with Confession at 4:00 pm.
- We are still in need of servers, Sacristans, and communion ministers.
- Vernon Raymond has temporarily stepped away from his ministries.
- Carrie Gary is working on new Ash Wednesday music.
- The Art and Environment Committee will be ordering white poinsettias soon. They would like to purchase a small, hand-held steamer for tablecloths.

Chairman Lou Leppert asked for prayers for Mary Jo Mattingly, wife of Deacon-Emeritus Gerry Mattingly. Mary Jo has had recent health issues and seems to be improving.

The meeting closed in prayer.

The next Pastoral Council meeting is March 14, 2023 at 6:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dana Steinmetz, Pastoral Council Secretary