

St. Leonard Parish Council Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2021
6pm via Zoom

Agenda:

Prayer - Lou

How's it going Parish Council - what are you seeing at/with STL and how are you? -Council Discussion

MAC Team Update/Discussion - Lauren

Prep for Lent - Lou and Ashley

Membership Package Update - Ashley

Timeline for Council Turnover – Lou

How are you?

Lauren opened the meeting up and asked for additional input from PC.

Jason noted that it's hard to get a feel around the pulse of what's going on . It's hard to get a real sense and stay engaged. He noted that Maureen can stay engaged with STL Ladies and they have an open forum. The lack of connectivity is not through a lack of what anyone is doing. He's used the Winter Retreat but nothing can replace the in person community that you get.

David said that it's tough they had a baby right before the pandemic started but it's hard to get an update on everything.

John said that not having kiddos in toe has helped to allow him to attend in person.

Lou noted that he got good feedback from Worship Committee but it's just not the same. About 30% of people in a Pew poll noted that their faith had been strengthened. There are many saying that this has been good. Anecdotally David heard from people who are going to mass now more than they used to. Lou noted that more people who have left the church coming to confession. He's seeing more people that are not regular attendees.

MAC Team Update/Discussion

Lauren updated the Council that Fran Mastropaolo. She felt like new member MAC team really means the most from a parishioner. The logistics of new members is handled by the staff but Ashley felt that was best handled by a New Member Chair or someone who would call the new person independent of the staff. For right now, Ashley has been doing some of the work that Fran took on but she felt like it doesn't feel the same as a parishioner. Lou noted that we are looking for people who want to connect with new people. He thought if we can pitch it that way it might be better. Jason asked how many people are coming in. Since August they've only had 3-4 families register and that's come from Ashley noticing and reaching out, they're not necessarily new. There are new people scoping out the parish and if she sees a pattern she reaches out and asks. Jason talked about a new family with a baby (he could relate to them), a single person reaching out to a single new joiner and a married person. **Jason volunteered to be**

a liaison for young families/married people. Ashley noted if we can assemble that roster that would help. Lauren asked if there were any other people that were top of mind. She also noted that we can volunteer our friends. **Jason noted Jodee Jackson.** Lou mentioned that much like the reach out we did when we were in person and invited people to certain ministries we could maybe do a video with Talgrace.

Prep for Lent

The staff met to go through detail around Lent re: when confession and stations of the cross will happen. Mike has all of the video for reflections during Lent. There will be a printed version for those that get the bulletin mailed to them. This is in process, in this case it's a STL project. They will have Ash Wednesday but won't sprinkle on heads. Jason noted that there might be an opportunity for outdoor mass, especially as we're getting closer to Easter/warmer weather.

Membership Package Update

Ashley noted that envelopes have gone out. We sent tax letters with membership, those were mailed on 01/27. They mailed 268 families that have received letters. They got a letter from Lou, what we have in the database. Alison noted that we already have 10% return. She encouraged folks to do it, starting 03/01 office staff will call families who didn't return forms. This year everything is being sent manually, after the update of the website we want to do this digitally.

Timeline for Council Turnover

A more typical timeline for parishes is early June and gives the summer lag time. We would look after Easter to start promoting that and talking about what it's like to be on Council and put out a video. The system is to invite people and more people can nominate if they like. That typically happens at mass on a certain weekend. Ashley noted that (communications wise – if you want to get this out in time) we need videos to be in process by April.

Lauren asked about an update on the website. We were working with one person through December, the person that we had has been pulled and we're getting a new rep. They know our deadline is 02/28. We are in a contract with them through the fiscal year.