

St. Leonard Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 7, 2023

Location: Parish Office

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Attendees: Julia Bauscher, Allison Gousha (via cell phone), Gary Gruneisen, Katie McCullum, Ray Triplett, Mike Gandolfo, Jay Branham, Will Coburn (arrived at 6:06pm)

Absent: Father Lou

Guest: Sharon Coonan

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Update on Fr. Lou
 - a. Masses scheduled through Derby
 - b. Communion Service at STL on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon
3. Parish Mission Statement – any permanent change is tabled until Fr. Lou returns
4. Worship Listening Session – Sunday, May 20th, 2:30-3:30
 - a. Questions prepared by Jo-Dee Jackson
5. Celebration for Deacon Ralph
 - a. Committee members/Roles
 - b. Saturday, April 15, 5:15-7:15 Open House at STL
6. Joy of the Gospel discussion
7. Other business
 - a. Prayers of the Faithful and Mass announcements by PC members (MSP) – “Donut Sunday” – note that if a member is the lector they cannot do the announcements
 - b. Stewardship update – Steve King
 - c. Parish Council Guidelines (2023) – tabled
8. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Council said the opening prayer created by the Worship Committee.

Update on Father Lou

Sharon provided brief update. No new updates since weekend newsletter other than he is making progress and support/continued prayers have been offered to his family. Sharon has proactively scheduled priests for masses and special services through Derby. Parishes are following the same course as when Fr. Lou was present and business sides are being handled as well. The shortage of priests in the archdiocese was discussed and recruiting priests from other countries.

Parish Mission Statement

Julia began by reminding council they cannot permanently change the mission statement until Father Lou is back and then turned it over to Mike to lead the discussion. Mike took all submitted suggestions and made a chart to analyze, compare and help piece together a strong statement that stands the test of time and will guide the parish. Mike will share the document with the parish council for review and further discussion on what makes St. Leonard stand out. Jay suggested to consider what the surrounding community needs. How do we define community? Area surrounding church or include city of Louisville, parishioner address boundaries etc. What brought the council members to St. Leonard was discussed as examples. Common themes were the intimacy and warmth felt in the parish community. "Come as you are." Mike shared local demographics and will circulate for further review and consideration. Council members asked to reflect on the following for future discussion:

- What is the area starving for?
- What do they have an over-abundance of already?

Tabled for further discussion. Katie will circulate Mike's analysis of mission statements to council for review again before next meeting.

Worship Listening Session Sunday May 20th 2:30-3:30

Correction to agenda – Worship Listening Sessions are Saturday, May 20th at St. Leonard 2:30pm-3:30pm and Sunday, May 21st 1:00pm-2:00pm at St. Francis of Rome. Similar questions at both. Worship Committee put forth questions to be asked. Sharon provided explanation of synodal dialogue goal with these listening sessions. Additionally, she explained to council how Worship deals with spirituality. Formation is directional and educational while Worship is expressional. They are interconnected. Council members have been asked to be facilitators at the tables at either session – not parish specific questions so beneficial to be at either one.

Celebration for Deacon Ralph

More to come next week. Looking for council members to help with festivities. Saturday April 15th. After 4pm mass at St. Leonard – open-house style.

Joy of the Gospel Discussion

Points from this organically came up in previous discussion.

Other Business

Prayers of the Faithful and Mass Announcements – Sharon explained the plan is for council members to rotate "hosting" Sunday donuts to include reading the Prayers of the Faithful and announcements at the end of mass to give more council exposure and accessibility to parishioners. Depending on how well this rotation goes will determine adding in Saturday evening services. Council members were reminded to please wear name badges to church.

28% stewardship return so far. Brief discussion on how to best utilize the information and utilize all volunteers.

Parish Council Guidelines – Sharon confirmed draft proposal was approved, but Father Lou wants to clarify some things before rolling-out to ensure no misinterpretation.

Other Business Cont.

Jay suggested Oregon Catholic Press contacts for future learning session for council and or next retreat.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:12PM

The next meeting will be April 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McCullum