

St. Wenceslaus Church, Wahoo, NE Parish Council Minutes – November 17, 2024

Attendance – Fr. Eickhoff, Fr. Johnson, Mary Egler, Barb Chall, Dianne Turman, Tobin Spangler, Chris Lautenschlager, Mike Weiss

Opening Prayer – Fr. Eickhoff

Minutes read, corrected and approved

Pastor Update -

Fr. Eickhoff gave an update on issues from past All Parish meetings that have been addressed. 1. The Saturday evening mass has had an increase of 80 additional people since changing the time to 4:30. 2. We have a digital bulletin, Flocknotes. 3. We have a 6% increase in tithing over last year. 4. We have an outreach program that continues to reach fallen-away members. 5. We have completed projects to the ramp, west sidewalk, and street exit on 2nd street.

Fr. Eickhoff did some Anointing of the Sick at the nursing home. The plan is to offer a healing mass on a Saturday morning in Advent.

Committee Reports

Stewardship/evangelization - Barb Chall spoke of some of the things the committee does such as bake rolls for welcoming new parishioners. They sponsor a Giving Tree with paper ornaments that list items for residents of the nursing home. They host a Welcome dinner for new parishioners. This year it will be February 23, 2025. The parish is divided into 10 communities. We now have a leader for each community. People that need assistance may contact Carmen Sullivan.

Men's Ministry - Bob Sullivan reported that Fr. Fleck will be the speaker on November 20, 2024, at Finnebarre's Pub & Inn at 7pm.

Outreach -

Father Eickhoff and Fr. Johnson are planning to offer a three-week mini course on the first 3 Thursdays of Advent. It will begin Dec. 5th at 7:00pm. They will focus on the Gospel of Luke.

Jail Ministry is carried out by Father Eickhoff, Pat and Angie Burke, Scott Watts and Roger Kuhfahl. They recently had 22 men attend.

Pro Life – Thank you to all the PRO-LIFE committees, especially Jessica Bohaty, for getting materials out for the vote.

Building and Grounds -

Plaster Repair – Tobin Spangler reported that Nola Paint Girl began upstairs repairing plaster and then moved to the main level of the church. Pews have been moved as needed. The final cost is \$16,000.

School Updates

Elementary School Update – Mike Weiss reported that the enrollment is 264 students. He gave a background on how we got the new addition. We still owe about \$17,000 to pay off the addition.

Bishop Neumann update - Mary Egler reported that the next meeting will be at the end of January. Fr. Eickhoff said the Advancement Committee under Eva Fujan had done a 5-year plan. The pillars of strategy may need reviewed and updated every 1-2 year.

Finance – Chris Lautenschlager presented a slide show on the finances. The parish ended the year \$100,000 in the red. Money was pulled from savings to cover this. We did meet our goal of a 4.5 percent increase in tithing. We are \$27,000 behind in first quarter. Some of this may be due to tuition coming in slowly.

Old Business – Parish Outreach Position - Fr. Eickhoff said we are not in a position to do this yet.

Parish Discernment – Fr. Eickhoff shared the outcomes of a 4-week discernment attended by the parish council and about 15 parishioners. It involved scripture, prayer and sharing. The group discussed the strengths of our parish, the wounds of our parish, Satan’s plan for our parish and what should be our plan of attack.

New Business

Nominations are open for the Parish Council election in January. Barb Chall and Mary Egler will be finishing their terms.

Next Meeting – December 7, 2024

Closing Prayer– Fr. Eickhoff

Respectfully submitted, Dianne Turman