

Church of St Matthew Parish Council

# Monthly Meeting Notes 2023

## Meeting Notes for February 23, 2023

Members Present: Jerald Dosch, Kathy Goldenstein, Phil Grant (ex-officio), Maggie Lee, Janelle Rohr, Ellen Schneider, Linda Sellars, Anthony Minus, Karen Thompson (trustee, ex-officio), Becky Montgomery

Absent: Zach Czaia

Zoom meeting began at 7pm.

Members approved notes from the previous meeting.

**Date Change for Next Meeting:** Changed date to March 30<sup>th</sup>. Will change Listening Weekend to March 25 & 26

**Finance Council Report:** Quantum is caught up on school rent. The parish is currently running ahead of weekly collections. Lots of issues with facilities cropping up – we'll be dealing with those. Have invested recent estate gift with Catholic Community Foundation. Will be able to use some of the money every year instead of spending it all this year. Can also use it as collateral for a loan to improve facilities.

**Listening Weekend:** Received suggestion that we have an "Invite Someone to Mass" weekend. Discussed a few ideas. At beginning or end of every Mass make a point of welcoming new people/visitors. Possibly ask people to take a moment and greet or introduce themselves to people next to them. Promote a Welcome Weekend where everyone is encouraged to bring someone to Mass. Council members would be encouraged to be greeters. Liturgy Committee will discuss a plan at their meeting this week.

**Synod Update:** St. Matt's has six people registered to participate. Group went to the first meeting. It was a lecture with no opportunity for discussion. The plan is to focus on St. Matt's priorities including outreach, especially to youth; adult formation; and collaboration with surrounding parishes. Karen is organizing a meeting with reps from St. Stanislaus and St. Francis as a first step to explore ways we can work together. Also talked about how we should communicate these activities with the St Matthew parish community. Becky suggested an insert in the bulletin that summarizes parish priorities and plans on one side and possibly a survey on the other. Could also put on the website or direct people to an online survey. Discussed how the Adult Formation/Education that Fr. Steve is providing could be shared with other parishes and we could collaborate on youth activities. Karen emphasized that it's important to invite input to open the door for people to become stakeholders.

**Parish Youth Engagement:** Movie night was a success. About 35+ young people attended, and we received good feedback from families who said they'd do it again. Maggie proposed trying to do another Movie Night in March at which we could make a point to invite families to Mass and we could hand out postcards with the Holy Week and Easter schedule. Maggie will check on dates and follow up with Karen about creating a handout/postcard. Also discussed the

possibility of hosting a dance this spring. The Men's Club has offered to provide some funds to support activities.

**Parish Council Recruitment & Visibility** – Becky recounted the history of how St. Matt's came to be a lay-led parish, that the model is approved by Archdioceses and that this is really a model many parishes will need to adopt given the shortage of priests. Becky proposed training for council members to clarify roles and responsibilities. Archdiocese has some training that we might be able to adapt. This topic could also be part of discussions with other parishes and come under the umbrella of synod activities. Anthony proposed Adult Faith Formation be part of that – getting people to think about what role they could play. Not everyone has the capacity to join the council, but they could play a role. Shared names of people to consider asking. Maggie suggested putting something in the bulletin each week to explain our unique situation – lay led – talk about what that means, the role of the council. It's an opportunity to educate – spread the word. See who that appeals to as we invite people to consider joining the council.

**Solar Panels** – Interstate Power & Light – waiting on a meeting. The idea is to wrap up solar panel installation costs with costs for roof & electric panel. That would entitle us to a 30% discount. The Facilities Committee is meeting on Tuesday.

**Parish Website** – Richard Schletty is training Angela to make updates on the website. Richard is willing to continue doing the website for the time being but at some point we will need someone else – volunteer or hired – to provide high level technical support. Kathy asked about Francois (sp?) who plays piano at Mass sometimes – is he a web designer? Phil will follow up.

**Campus Security** – At Listening Sunday someone asked about the security cameras and if we can get the kind that have door sensors to confirm that doors are locked. Also brought up the possibility that someone check the church doors around 5-6pm each night. Phil said he has someone to do that. And getting a security system is in the queue. Funds have been set aside.

**Catholic Service Appeal** – Not planning to make a big deal out of it this year.

**Facilities Committee** Repairs are being made to the heating system in the Social Hall. Playing catch up because they haven't been maintained. Suggest people dress in layers.

**Adjourned at 8:30p.m.**