

**St. Thomas Aquinas
Parish Council Agenda
April 6, 2021**

Those Present: Sharon Mason, Grace DeMoss, Noah DeMoss, Cathy Bickel, Chris Collins, Karen Momper, Sharon Sperry, Karla Hudacek, Matt Hayes, Fr. Varghese, Rocky Marsh

Those Absent: Megan Bloede, Jackson Herrera, Shanna Martin, Tim Nation

Agenda:

- *Prayer and Pastor remarks- Fr. V.*
 - Easter celebrations went very well, all things considered
 - Parish is slowly coming back to normalcy
 - Confirmation is coming up at the Cathedral
 - First Communion is coming up at STA
 - The light issue has been settled
 - Thank you for the memorial video from the bereavement committee--it was beautiful and very moving
- *Approve minutes from March meeting (they can be accessed from Google Drive accounts)*
 - Karen makes a motion to approve, Noah seconded, and the parish council votes to approve with no one rejecting
- *President remarks- Cathy*
- *Parish updates- Fr. V & Karla*
 - Welcoming committee is reaching out to new parishioners and working on making sure new parishioners continue to feel welcome in their new parish
 - Working on grouping new parishioners together to help foster a sense of community
 - 15 teens will be Confirmed on Thursday
 - May 2 is First Communion Mass
 - Easter Masses combined had an attendance of 360
 - 170-175 on Easter Sunday

Old Business:

- *Review nominees put forward by Elections Committee and non-elected Pillar Heads, Finance Chair, and School Chair*
 - Rocky Marsh will roll off of Parish Council in 2021
 - Fr. Varghese, in consultation with Rocky and the parish council, will appoint a new Community Engagement pillar head
- *Review Election Process*
 - Cathy, Karen, and Sharon S. gathered a list of people who might consider running
 - Elections in May
 - 3 candidates at the moment, but still open if others are interested in coming forward
 - Get together a ballot box and print ballots
 - Get bios and photographs from the candidates and publish them in the newsletter and bulletin, as well as announcements at Mass by Fr. Varghese
 - Bios/photographs can be published throughout all of May, and people can vote throughout the month of May, as well.
 - Available after Masses, in the Church office, and a SurveyMonkey form to allow people who are not yet comfortable with coming to Mass to vote
 - Ballots will be counted ASAP and the winner would be announced in May, and they will come to their first parish council meeting in the July meeting

Pillar Reports

Reminder: Pillar heads (excluding finance chair) should send reports to Cheryl Taylor to have posted on the website for each pillar's page

- *Community Engagement – Rocky Marsh*
 - Food pantry has had some construction, but Facebook has updates
 - Haiti committee is collecting clothing and school/medical supplies
 - Wellness committee has not met since February of 2020
 - Can't do the annual blood drive in the Spring, but plan on doing it in the Fall
 - St. Vincent De Paul is still getting donations and support, which is great
 - Can't do in-person visits, but has been able to do virtual/contact-free support
- *Dialogue, Truth and Faith – Tim Nation*
- *Finance- Noah DeMoss*
 - Our new accountant, Ithream, is officially settled in!
 - Monday-Friday in the morning
 - Brooke is still giving some oversight, but is about wrapped up
 - Giving is up a little bit
 - PPP loan should be forgiven soon
 - School budget is moving ahead; tuition was announced at the end of March
 - Megan, Chris Durnell, and finance committee got together to discuss the Strategic Plan for the school
 - It was paused during the pandemic, but it's looking like it will start again soon
 - Over the next few months, we'll start looking at that information again
 - Parish Council wants a bit more information about it, so Chris will be coming to the Parish Council soon to discuss
- *School Commission – Megan Bloede*
- *Spiritual Growth – Sharon Sperry*
 - Reports have been sent out to be viewed
 - Weidencamps want to be replaced for marriage prep
 - Arts and environment go above and beyond
 - Bulletin notice of thanks and appreciation?
- *How can we thank people who keep the parish going for their dedication and faithfulness?*
 - Ministry fair
 - Recognize those who are involved
 - Allows others to know what each ministry is doing/can do
 - Pentecost weekend--gifts of the Holy Spirit

At-Large Members: Sharon, Karen, Matt

Youth Outreach :Jackson

New Business:

- Closing Prayer: Grace DeMoss

Next Meeting at 7:00pm, May 4, 2021