

**St Mary of the Assumption
Parish Council Meeting
03/08/16
7:00p.m.**

Members Present: Father Kunkel, Ken Kiedrowski, Jim Edwards, Paula Mackey, Tim Mackey, John McCarty, Jeff Kline, Jack Smith, Dan Melefsky

Staff present: Janet Young

Additional Parishioners Present: John McCarty, Bill Bokel, Deborah Brocato

Opening Prayer: Jim Edwards

Committee Reports

Respect Life Committee (Deborah Brocato) –There is a good number of people on the email list. Focus is on prayer with all actions. Committee feels this has helped with the sponsor of S.B. 418 End of Life - to withdraw the bill as it would be defeated. The bill is still in the House but it is doubtful it will come to a vote. It will be brought up again next year. People support the bill because they fear death but they don't realize all the consequences of the bill. There are end of life discussions on the Archdiocese website.

The number of abortions per year is down to about 3000 per day. We continue to promote a culture of life, encourage people to vote for candidates that will promote life. Crosses in the Field of Innocents are scheduled to be put out on March 19th.

There is request for prison ministry. Phil Senechal was going on Thursday evenings to the Maryland State Penitentiary and Mike Dodson use to go to the Harford County Detention Center. There is an idea for a prayer ministry – contact the detention center for names of inmates that would like to be prayed for, possibly visit, adopt an inmate program. Jim Edwards will contact a couple he knows in this type of ministry and get contact information for Deborah.

There is an idea for a prayer ministry for those in rehab. Parishioner, Bob Hoopert, gives community presentations about heroin. Fr. Kunkel will give Deborah the contact information.

Pastor's Report – Initial survey results from the Archdiocese have been released. Reports were handed out.

Fr. Kunkel and Barbara Sadler met with Lisa Wright, Development Coordinator for the Harford County Region of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She is available to help St. Mary's with fundraising for our needs. The Capital Campaign is complete. The next project will be to replace the windows in the hall that were not replaced with the new construction.

St. Mary's goal for the 2016 Archbishop's Annual Appeal was around \$38,000. We achieved \$63,000. Up to the goal St. Mary's receives 25% back and anything over the goal is 50% back.

There have been some minor repairs completed on the grounds. The foundation of the rectory, metal door to the basement of the rectory, and all the lampposts have been painted. The ceiling has been replaced in the sacristy. Siding and gutter on the breezeway side have been replaced. The ramp into the church as well as other wooden ramps will be replaced with Trex decking the first weekend in April.

There was a suggestion to paint the outside of the bell tower and around the church. The last time this was done was in 2002. St. Mary's can spend up to \$50,000 without having to go through the Archdiocese. Suggestion to consider restating a maintenance committee.

Faith Formation – There are four young teenagers and three adults in the RCIA program this year. There will be six baptisms and one confirmation at the Easter Vigil with a reception to follow. There are 21 first communicants this year.

Janet Young and Ellen Dumer have started the Called and Gifted program. This program is intended for those that have been awakened by ChristLife.

Faith Formation is in the process of selecting a new textbook for grades K-8. The current RCL program is out of print. There will be a committee meeting on 03/16/16 for catechists to determine what they need in a new series. Samples were ordered. Diane Eakes recommended the Called to Be Disciples series from the samples.

Janet reported that there are some families with challenges in Faith Formation. There are families that are becoming more active in their faith.

Communication Report – John McCarty previewed the new parish website. It is currently on a 30 -day trial. It features a moving slideshow of pictures, video can be included as well. It is easy to access and navigate. It is easy to add contacts and other information. Flocknote can be linked to the website. There is also an option in the future to link to PayPal to be able to use credit cards at the chicken dinners.

The mid-level package which is the current trial includes up to 50 pages for \$35 per month. The unlimited page package is \$50 a month. This is less expensive, better, and easier than the current outdated, static website for \$65 a month. Fees can be paid monthly or yearly. St. Ignatius uses this company for their website.

Website was approved. John will take care of arrangements. Send any information/links that you wish to have on the website to John. Website will go live on 03/09/16. Please contact John with any errors, additions, etc.

John is willing to do a training session with any of the ministries on how to manage individual ministry pages.

John has done an excellent job with the website and improving St. Mary's communication tools. His commitment and hard work is much appreciated.

Closing Prayer: Father Kunkel

Meeting Ended: 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted by Paula Mackey, Parish Council Member