

11/9/15

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH
WEST SIMSBURY, CT**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MEETING DATE: 11/9/15**

On November 9, 2015, a regular meeting of the Parish Council was convened at 7:00PM in the Parish Library.

In attendance were the following members: Tom Clarke, Anne Connelly, Mike Coutinho, Amy Daniels, Laura Doyle, Judie McDonald, Jim Peters, Bill Tagliatela, Tom Tanski, Nancy Taylor, Kate Stewart, and Fr. Michael Whyte. Eric Davis and John McManus were absent.

At the request of Jim Peters, Fr. Michael began the meeting with an opening prayer.

Jim Peters asked that the Minutes of the October 19, 2015, meeting be accepted. A Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Meeting Minutes.

HOLY FAMILY PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER PRESENTATION

Fr. Terry Kristofak and Bill Walsh shared the programs offered at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. Fr. Terry and Bill Walsh shared that a retreat is about rest, reflection, and recommitment, and retreats benefit the participant, his or her family, and the parish.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

The Grand Annual Collection is underway, and the goal is to replenish the savings of \$150,000. About \$60,000 has been collected at this point.

Our Parish received a \$100,000 inheritance from a parishioner.

The Parish is also receiving a \$100,000 donation from parishioners. This donation will fund the Benevolent Fund which supports the charitable funds St. Catherine of Siena supports.

SANCTUARY RENOVATION UPDATE

Quotes for the stenciling of the Beatitudes in Celtic lettering and for the Stations of the Cross are forthcoming. The altar and tabernacle furniture will be installed by Christmas, and the ambo and presider's chair will be installed after Christmas. John McDonald is working on designing the railings along the steps leading to the altar.

A parishioner is funding the refurbishment of the Mary statue and area in the church.

LED lighting is being installed for savings.

The project to date is under budget.

PARISH DIRECTORY STATUS

Directories are due to be distributed in the beginning of December, and extra directories will be provided to new parish members.

PARISH HOLY LAND TRIP UPDATE

Tom Clarke shared the PowerPoint presentation provided by AAA and Insight Vacations, a top-tier vacation planning company. An information meeting will be held for those interested on November 12, 2015, at 7:30pm. The trip is scheduled from October 27, 2016, to November 4, 2016.

The itinerary includes visits to Tiberias, Nazareth, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Aviv, Masada, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$2730 per person (airfare not included). The cost depends on the number of participants and would decrease with a higher rate of participation. Insight Vacations will arrange the direct flight from Boston to Tel Aviv. A bus will be chartered from St. Catherine of Siena to Logan Airport.

One tour guide will lead the group for the entire trip, and “local experts” will step on and guide at each site.

REBUILT UPDATE

INFORMATION MINISTRY

Jim Peters presented the preliminary steps for creating the Information Station. Volunteers will be asked to learn how to navigate the website and help parishioners find information on the website. Volunteers may create a one page practical guide and fact sheet. The goal is to provide information so that parishioners can accomplish tasks with ease.

A preliminary list of topics that the Information Station would offer include background and contact information, RCIA, Sacraments, Ministries of the Altar, and Parish Office and Administration which would include registration, Mass cards, sponsor certificates, Legacy Fund requests, etc.

OPERATIONS TEAM MINISTRY

Fr. Michael and Mike Grappone compiled a list of tasks that would help maintain the building and grounds. An account will be created for the purchasing of materials, and Mike Grappone will oversee the completion of tasks.

TECH TEAM MINISTRY

One technical person will oversee the team that will manage the website, audio visual equipment, and any other technology at St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY

Speakers and spiritual events are being scheduled for this year.

ANNUAL LEAF RAKE

Bill Tagliatela reported that the Leaf Rake will take place on November 14, 2015. All parishioners are welcome to volunteer to help with this event serving our community. This year marks a “record year” with 25 yards!

NEW BUSINESS

Fr. Michael ordered copies of Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly to distribute to parishioners as a gift in December. This book focuses on the importance of attending Mass and having Christ in your life.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Stewart
Parish Council Secretary