**ST. LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL / FINANCE COUNCIL**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2022 - APPROVED JANUARY 24, 2023**

STAFF/COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE MEMBERS

Pastor – Fr. Bill Burks George Morse (excused)

Pastoral Assoc. – Bill Unruh Kenny Nauert, Sr.

Denise Ruffra

Chairperson – Matt Rasche Josh Riley

Vice Chair – Aimee Burton Sarah Burke

Angela Taylor

Finance Council – Emily Rickert Danielle Wiegandt

Worship – Karen Kuenzig Amy Wilson

Planning & Maintenance – Matt Rasche

Stewardship – Deacon David Maxwell Alternate:

Formation – Vicki Neuner (excused) Mary Doris McCubbins (excused)

Personnel Committee – Gena Rasche(excused) Joe Rickert

NDA – Dee Dee Nauert

Booster Club – Joe Rickert (excused)

Matt Rasche welcomed everyone. Opening prayer offered by Fr. Bill. August meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Denise Ruffra, second by Deacon David Maxwell.

**PASTOR’S REPORT – FR. BILL BURKS**

* Fr. Bill clarified the resignation of Business Manager, Susan Carter, and the re-assignment of the position to be shared by Susan Goebel, Parish Secretary, and Michael Raymer, Youth Minister. Joyce Nelson was re-employed to train them. The are working through the processes. Seems to be going well. The Parish is grateful for their service, and their knowledge.
* On Monday, November 14, had 2 Masses at Holy Cross – Grandparents’ Mass and Winter Sports Mass. A Joyous Day with Holy Cross!
* First Reconciliation for 4th Grade was this past Sunday, November 13, with Fr. Tom Gentile participating as well as Fr. Bill. A reception and pictures followed the Reconciliation. On Thursday this week, there will be a letter going to the 4th grade Parents regarding Parish Sacramental Life & importance of attending weekend Mass. The 2nd grade parents will also receive a similar letter. 8th grade parents have already received this letter. Will not give up on the importance of this.

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE – BILL UNRUH**

* Bill Unruh reported the Faith Formation Committee met in October to discuss the Advent Evening of Reflection with Fr. Bob Ray, scheduled for November 29. The evening will begin with a soup supper in the Community Room at 6:00 PM, followed by Fr. Ray’s presentation in Church. Will ask for signups after weekend Masses, so we can plan food for number of people attending.
* Bible Study – reviewing options for continuing these sessions for Parish.
* Certificates are being prepared for 4th Grade Reconciliation participants.
* Religious Ed on Sunday morning, have 8 children. Children’s Liturgy of the Word is going well.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Matt advised that Daivie Kay contacted him and Fr. Bill regarding two “buddy benches” that are requested to be placed at the playground. These benches will honor Addie and Baylor Kirchgessner. A dedication of the benches is planned for December 5. Matt will arrange to pour concrete pads that the benches will be anchored to. Will also need a garbage can in the same area.

PC members should bring parishioner’s concerns to meetings – good to advise Matt prior to meeting, so can be added to agenda.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Booster Club -** Matt asked Aimee Burton to discuss Booster Club issues. Aimee advised they are having issues regarding volunteers for Monte Carlo, which is scheduled for February 11, 2023. Specifically need someone to run the money room. Advised the money room is where people buy chips, and where money drops are accepted. Discussion followed regarding security of chips used, with no identifying marks. Stickers suggested. Danielle offered Holy Cross chips to be used, if they have enough. Later in the meeting, Amy Wilson volunteered for the money room.

Need to ask Parish parents for more help at sporting events.

Gutters on gym need repair/replace. Gym gutters should be included with proposal for gutters on other buildings.

The Fence in back, behind garage, near the bridge over the ditch, is an urgent need. Discussion regarding fence/bridge followed. Matt will get a proposal for the fence issue. Fr. Bill and Matt will look at the area Thanksgiving weekend.

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**Finance** – Mike Raymer sent Financial Report prior to meeting. Highlights include tithing received YTD $160,440.68 vs Budget $178,725.33. Noted that CEC is operating in black. After review, Council discussed the Gaming Savings item on report and CEC savings on report. Noted that CEC is operating in black. Boosters have the only outstanding loan ($24,094.90), which is for the gym floor. Fr. Bill is hoping Boosters can accelerate payments, so Parish will be debt free.

Discussion followed regarding what new parishioners are advised regarding what is expected to be a member of St. Lawrence. All agreed the parish needs to understand how the Parish supports NDA through tithing. Mass attendance was also discussed. Need to do a better job of defining what it means to belong to the Parish – register, attend weekend Mass, and be involved in Parish Life – Fr. does “soft sell” on financial obligation to Parish. Need personal contact to get people more involved. Suggestion from Sarah Burke that a young person speak with new members at the welcome meeting regarding how they/their family are contributing to Parish.

**Grounds/Maintenance** – Matt reported the CEC backyard looks good. The inside of CEC needs improvement, including new flooring and paint. Danielle Wiegandt asked about adjusting staff wages at CEC. Discussion followed and Fr. Bill advised he and Suzanne Stewart are discussing a plan.

**Stewardship** – David Maxwell reported there have been no new members since September 18.

**Picnic** – Noted the Parish Council hasn’t yet received final numbers for 2022 Picnic. Fr. Bill will bring report to next meeting. Picnic Committee needs to meet to plan 2023 Picnic. Susan Goebel & Mike Raymer are arranging gaming licenses.

**Worship** – Karen Kuenzig sent report via email prior to meeting. Highlights include: Worship Committee are calling Parishioners on current Ministry schedule to check if they want to continue their ministry or change ministries. Plan to check Ministry annually. The Jesse tree will have ornaments made by Parish Staff, Pre-school, NDA, to be placed on Jesse tree during Advent, along with an explanation of their meaning. Terry Blanton is hosting the Star program again this year, with a Christmas tree placed in the gathering space the weekend of Nov 19-20, feast of Christ the King. Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am on Nov 24. Parishioners may bring bread and/or wine for a blessing at that Mass. The Church will be decorated for Advent on Nov 25, with creche, advent wreath, etc. New “fall season” banners for ordinary time are hanging in back of Church. Small Advent banners will go up in back of Church throughout Advent. In addition to report, Karen advised the cry room and Reconciliation room have blinds, in case wedding party needs to change there.

**Music** – Kids choir “The Grillers” has 30 children. There are 15 in the adult Quire – have asked on Facebook for more to join. Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Mass will be sung by kids choir. Christmas Eve 8:00 pm Mass will be sung by adults. Christmas Day 9:00 am Mass will be sung by whomever shows up. There are weddings planned for December. New 2023 hymnals will be placed after Thanksgiving Mass.

**Notre Dame Academy** – Open House tonight.

**Youth Ministry** – Michael Raymer sent report via email prior to meeting. Highlights include: Holy Fire on August 1 was attended by 4 students and Andrea Mulhall. October 6th was Bring your Bible to School Day, for special blessing of Bibles. Fall Break Mission trips to Franciscan Soup Kitchen were well attended. Mike & Michele Raymer participated in Incarnation’s Truck or Treat on October 15. Confirmation parent meeting was August 29. Student/Sponsor information meeting October 18 was well attended. October 20th trip to Jack O’Lantern Spectacular at Iroquois Park had 25 attendees. Mike, Michael and Andrea Mulhall attended Archdiocese Youth Ministry Celebration Dinner on October 26. Andrea received the Salt and Light Award for her help in After School Junior High. Mike received the Archdiocese Certificate in Youth Ministry. October 29, Mike attended the First Reconciliation workshop and presented the Theology talk to 3 groups of students and their parents. First Reconciliation was November 13 at 1:00 pm. The first Student/Sponsor Confirmation Workshop was held on Monday, Nov 7. The Junior High After School Herd (The Velociraptors) has been well attended. Due to such growth in attendance, have split into rotating weeks – 6th graders on one Monday & 7th/8th graders the next week. The next Student/Sponsor Workshop for Confirmation is scheduled for Monday, December 5.

**Social Concerns** – A representative from St. Vincent de Paul spoke at Masses last weekend. Request for St. Lawrence to join CLOUT was approved, with main point of justice work with young people.

**Outreach** – Bill Unruh advised that Mary Doris McCubbins is sending Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to home bound parishioners, signed by Fr. Bill.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

* Matt brought up issue of unlocking the door near the back parking lot, for arriving at Mass. Discussion followed regarding safety concerns. Due to those safety concerns, that door coming into school hallway will not be unlocked for now. Dee Dee Nauert reported the Church doors are locked after NDA school Mass begins. After further discussion, proposal was made for having a security team in place at Masses for safety, by first of year.
* Signage at Fr. Meder Road – Fr. Bill proposed sign similar to NDA sign at Dixie Hwy & Lewiston Drive.
* Need to revisit LED sign out front of Church. Danielle suggested Signarama best option. Matt will contact Signarama.
* Regarding purchase of neighbor’s land – Fr. Bill hasn’t looked at this yet. Matt will reach out to Joyce to get more details/history.

**PARISH COUNCIL WILL GATHER IN COMMUNITY ROOM FOR A CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 13, AT 6:00 PM. MEMBERS SHOULD BRING SPOUSES, AND AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT. MATT WILL SEND A SIGN-UP SHEET TO SHOW WHAT YOU WILL BRING TO PARTY.**

Motion to adjourn made by Emily Rickert, with second by Josh Riley. Meeting was adjourned with Dave Maxwell leading all in prayer.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 17, 2023. (NOTE: January meeting was changed to January 24, 2023.)**

Respectively submitted,

Dee Gossman