

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**

**Leading People to Jesus Through Worship, Community, Service and Devotion to Mary**

Immaculate Conception Parish Council and Commissions Meeting

November 11, 2020

MaryAnn Grossman called the Parish Council meeting to order via Zoom at 7:36pm; Bobbie Mitch led the members in an opening prayer.

Attendees: Deacon Chris Campbell, Dan Costello, Nathan DeDino, MaryAnn Grossman, Father Matt Hoover, Alison King, Beth Mahler, Bobbie Mitch, and Janet Wilks were in attendance.

*Follow-up Discussion of the January Millennial Church Conference and Evangelization*

Council members continued to discuss Heather MacKinnon’s presentation on outreach to millennials and how it could apply in the Immaculate Conception parish for both millennials and other age groups. MaryAnn informed the group that Heather’s presentation had been posted to the parish website. Father Matt mentioned that the IC commissions’ and council’s interest in this topic will help the parish better support diocesan efforts around evangelization next year.

Council members discussed the question of how to sustain work around evangelization. The group considered whether a new committee or other work group related to evangelization is needed. Members agreed that, at this time, it is still too early to know whether a new committee is necessary. Dan Costello shared print and video resources he has found related to outreach for Catholics who have left the church.

*Christmas Masses Discussion*

Council members spent the majority of the meeting discussing logistics for safe celebration of the Christmas Masses. Janet Wilks presented her proposal. Members asked questions about which parts of the IC school could be used for overflow capacity for the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass and the distribution of oplatki Christmas wafers. Members agreed that using parts of the school for overflow should be considered, although concerns were raised about the logistics of cleaning and using classrooms. Members also expressed interest in potentially distributing oplatki to parishioners; however, the need for adequate catechesis related to the oplatki was underscored by Father Matt and council members were in agreement with this need. Janet agreed to further detail her plan in response to feedback during the commission and council meetings.

Father Matt shared that 300 parishioners had responded to the Christmas Mass survey. Approximately 40% of the respondents indicated they and their families intended to attend the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. These respondents and their families would constitute approximately 500 attendees at the 4:00pm Mass.

Council members came to agreement on three principles that might guide decisions for this year’s Christmas Masses:

* Maintain the usual Christmas Mass schedule of Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00pm, 7:00pm, and 10:00pm with a single Christmas Day Mass at 10:00am.
* Try to accommodate as many attendees as possible, but only as many as can be done safely.
* Consider using a ticketing or sign-up approach for attendance.

Additional discussion will occur at the December council meeting.

*Connecting with Parishioners during the Pandemic*

Beth introduced the topic of connecting with parishioners during the pandemic and let the council know that this would be something discussed at upcoming meetings as well. Council members discussed how Janet’s idea of distributing oplatki to parishioners ahead of Christmas could be one way of connecting with parishioners and helping them feel part of their IC community.

*Pastor Updates*

Farther Matt discussed that the parish financial report had been distributed to parishioners. He also said that in-person Mass attendance had increased throughout the summer and plateaued in September and October, with approximately 375 attendees at in-person weekend Masses.

*Parish Council Outreach*

Bobbie reported out on efforts her workgroup was making to better ensure parishioners were aware of parish council and its activities. The workgroup is drafting an insert for the bulletin that they hope to have finalized at the beginning of 2021.

*Deanery Updates*

Mike Julian was not in attendance, but he provided MaryAnn with written deanery updates. The next deanery meeting will be November 17. There is planning for a special holiday bereavement event, but the details have not yet been finalized. The next regularly scheduled bereavement event will be virtual and hosted by St. Michael’s parish on November 24.

*Closing and Next Meeting*

The November meeting adjourned at 8:46pm. The next meeting will be December 9, 2020, at 6:30pm, via Zoom. All parishioners are welcome.

*Meeting minutes drafted and submitted by Nathan DeDino, Parish Council Secretary.*