

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**

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

Immaculate Conception Parish Council Meeting

December 9, 2020

MaryAnn Grossman called the Parish Council meeting to order via Zoom at 7:35pm; Dan Costello led the members in an opening prayer.

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

*Overview and Discussion of Christmas Masses*

MaryAnn, Father Matt, and other council members discussed the Christmas Masses in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Several points were highlighted:

* The ticketing system for the four Christmas Masses is in place. The parish office sent a Flocknotes communication to parishioners, and the 4:00pm and 7:00pm Masses on December 24 were full as of December 9. There was still space at the December 24 10:00pm Mass and the December 25 10:00am Mass.
* Parish staff are reaching out for volunteers, particularly for the 10:00pm and 10:00am Masses. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the parish office.
* A map and check-in system will be present in the gathering space, and no one will be admitted without a reservation. Volunteers will also be present in the parking lot to assist with ensuring a smooth check-in.
* All four Masses will be live-streamed, and signs will be posted on the gathering space windows with information about how to access the live-stream.
* Alison King reminded members that, even though everyone will have a reservation, it is still important to arrive early since seats are not assigned.

*Evangelization Discussion*

Beth Mahler is ensuring that all council members have a copy of the “Game Changer” booklet. Father Matt discussed several diocesan-wide efforts related to evangelization:

* Bishop Brennan and approximately 100 diocesan priests participated in a Zoom meeting in early December related to evangelization and other diocesan priorities.
* The goal of diocesan planning is not to close parishes; instead, the goal is to grow parishes through evangelization.
* Immaculate Conception parish is well-positioned to build on its existing evangelization efforts (e.g., the men’s and women’s conferences and Alpha).
* 2021 will be a year of faith formation, prayer, and planning across the diocese.
* Starting in January 2021, there will be a focus on changing the culture of the diocese and its parishes to focus more on evangelization.
* Bishop Brennan has prioritized missionary disciples.
  + Immaculate Conception will have a speaker about becoming a missionary disciple in January or February 2021.
* During Lent in 2021, which begins February 17, Immaculate Conception parish will participate in Bishop Brennan’s initiative for evangelization by hosting one of the diocesan-wide 40 days of adoration and prayer for evangelization.
* Father Matt challenged council members to identify other strategies and opportunities, separate from those of the diocese, to help others re-engage with their Catholic faith and prayer.

Dan shared various books related to evangelization and offered to share them with interested council members.

*Parish Council Flyer Presentation*

MaryAnn shared a two page flyer developed by a sub-group of parish council members. The flyer explains the purpose of parish council and the commissions and invites parishioners to participate in the monthly meetings. Council members discussed ways to share the flyer including adding it to the parish website, inclusion as a onetime insert to the bulletin, Flocknotes, and distribution to school children. Father Matt emphasized the need for multiple ways to communicate the information and said that he would discuss it with parish staff.

*Deanery Updates*

Mike Julian told the group that there would be greater activity in deaneries in 2021. He also told council members that the bereavement group focused in December on meeting the needs of those celebrating the holidays without loved ones and that the bereavement group would be meeting again in January.

*Closing and Next Meeting*

The December meeting adjourned at 8:38pm. The next meeting will be February 10, 2021, at 6:30pm, via Zoom. Agenda items must be submitted no later than January 27. All parishioners are welcome.

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