

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL BOARD -
MINUTES FEBRUARY 22, 2024 7:30PM**

PARISH COUNCEL MEMBERS PRESENT

Fr. Derek Hooper, Deacon Ron Deimeke, Tina Schmeling, Tammy Blaue, Patty Fennewald, Pat Arens, Delana Becker, Caroline Nation, and Michelle Hombs

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Vicki Duenke

OPENING PRAYER – Fr. Derek Hooper

This is a joint meeting to share and update what has gone on during the last year since the last joint meeting and to plan ahead.

HANDOUTS

Agenda

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, July 2023 through January 2024 St. Joseph Church

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, July 2023 through January 2024 St. Joseph School

ELC notes

Picture of new sign for church

REPORTS

FINANCE COUNCIL

A member of the Diocese donated funds to all parishes with schools for a \$2,000 bonus for full time school employees and a \$1,000 bonus for parish employees, with proportional amounts to part-time employees

Matt Cope will be coming to trim and/or cut down a tree by the ELC. Will ask him about cutting down other dead trees by church

Confessional/Bathroom renovation is nearly complete

Lexa Kobush, director, gave a presentation about improvements in the Early Learning Center, going over the notes in the handout and answering questions and discussing financials.

See attached report.

Theresa Shramek explained more about the money received from a diocesan donor for bonuses for school staff and employees

The tithe calculator is supposed to be revised to be simpler next year

Grants, Oktoberfest and one school fund raiser (probably the golf tournament) are not tithed

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Michelle Hombs reported that we have 42 families with 66 students

\$30,000 grant money was received for safety/covid needs, \$20,000 of this has been spent on security measures, sanitary needs, learning loss due to covid

Plan to update textbooks which got behind the usual 7 year cycle, get online subscriptions for academics

Planning for next year - an information meeting for new students March 22

Hopefully there will be more Pre-K students coming in than the 4 eighth graders leaving

Basement kitchen is being updated. A new countertop has been acquired from True Manufacturing through Josh and Katie Swaim. More cabinets are needed

Teacher contracts go out mid March and are due back by the end of March

We offer 92.5% of Community R-6 pay scale

PARISH COUNCIL

Tina Schmeling reported that improvements were made for noise reduction in the confessional

The dead trees in front of church were trimmed and will be removed this spring or summer, then it will be decided about replacing them with suggestions from Brennan's in Wellsville

There is an evening planned March 13 to try to get Ladies' Sodality started again
The concrete and blacktop surface by the steps in front of church are uneven and causes a problem collecting water when it rains, and an icy surface at times. We need to address this

The annual church cleaning is planned for April 20. Serve Pro has been contacted to professionally clean all the carpet after this and also stretch the carpet in the Sacristy to get rid of the ridges. We are waiting for the estimate which could be about \$1,000 to \$1,200.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Derek said he wants to do a better job of communicating about stewardship in his homilies

Grateful Living groups are starting back up this Lent

Paperwork from the diocese gave him a year to try to see the best way to work it out since we are somewhat delayed with a late start making us about a half year behind at about 3.5 instead of 3

We are doing well as a parish, school and ELC and just need patience to let everything work itself out

Stewardship with school needs to change a bit and will work on that in the coming months. We need to get families to come to Sunday Mass and tithe to church instead of a tuition mentality

We are closer to being in the black than we were before

OTHER PARISH DISCUSSIONS

Question about how many participate in the Grateful Living program – Fr. Derek said about 30 out of about 200 who attend weekend Masses. This is probably comparable to most parishes but hope to increase participation in the future with better planning.

Question about the budget handouts – we are on track with the budget because some money taken in last year is being spent now, so this year's figures look like we are spending more than is coming in month by month. We should be better than the projected deficit at the end of the fiscal year.

The two other parishes at Laddonia and Vandalia do help with a portion of Fr. Derek's expenses

Question about the Church of the Resurrection building and property – there is a separate bank account to take care of expenses. This checking account is the original Church of the Resurrection checking account and their funds prior to the merger. Fr. Derek oversees the checking account. At this point the bishop is not inclined to let us do anything except to keep the building from deteriorating, so selling it or tearing it down is not an option. There should be enough money in their account to take care of it for about ten years. This account was set up before the parishes merged. The Resurrection Cemetery is separate from the church and takes care of itself.

A new sign is being made to replace the old one. A handout shows the proposed design. There was a comment to mention the ELC on it

This is a great year for PSR – we have 32 youth candidates from PSR and St. Joseph School and two adults for First Communion and/or Confirmation.

7th and 8th graders are going on a retreat Sunday, February 25

The addition of a monthly weekend Mass with school students taking part in more roles is bringing more families to church

Parish Council breakfast is March 10. More help is needed to work at the breakfast
Deacon Ron stressed addressing the problem of water in front of church with puddles and ice.
Discussion about repair, checking tree roots causing the problem and see how best to
remedy. It was suggested to get a concrete repair company look at it and give an
estimate

CLOSING PRAYER led by Fr. Derek

Caroline Nation
Secretary