

## **Pastoral Council 12-1-2021**

Father Matthew Marshall opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Roll Call:** Present – Father Matthew Marshall, Chris Brueggen, Pat Peterson, Dennis Vinger, Phyllis Krause and Parker Moore. Absent- Craig Posephny

**Amendment to Minutes:** Father Matt provided documentation from “Consultation in the Parish and Deanery” on Bishop John Paul’s recommendations for Pastoral Council membership numbers and term of service. We will continue with membership numbers and terms of service as decided at last meeting.

**Religious Education Updates:** Currently no Religious Education Director. Father Matt is communicating with potential volunteers to teach First Communion and Confirmation classes starting in January. Additional volunteers are wanted for a January to May commitment. Parents have been encouraged to provide home education to their children using a workbook and online resources. Some parents lack confidence in providing this style education. Parish Council members suggested inviting parents to a planning meeting to brainstorm options to best meet the religious education needs and resources of our congregation. Like many volunteer programs, the Diocese requires volunteers to complete an online safe environment video training and sign off that this is completed before beginning their assignment.

**Easter Triduum:** Priests can only celebrate this three-day event – Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Vigil at one parish a year. This year is Coon Valley’s turn. Father Matt is looking for another priest to provide the Easter Triduum in Viroqua. If he is unable to find one to commit for Viroqua, the Parish Council would like another form of prayer service to be available in Viroqua for each of those three days.

**Liturgy Director:** Father Matt would like to hire a new member of his parish team to assist with leading the liturgy committee and coordinate related duties. He is working with the Finance Committee to budget for this position. The Parish Council is supportive of hiring a Liturgy Director.

**Synod:** Pope Francis has requested feedback from multiple levels – bishops, priests, dioceses, parishes and others to share insights on what being Catholic means today and to assess community needs and wants. Each parish is to present a report by May 2022. The Parish Council will begin the local process by reviewing surveys Father Matt collected earlier this year at a special meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

**Other topics:** A financial report will be provided soon that includes information that our roof has been paid for. Father Matt and his mother plan to move into the Viroqua rectory this spring. All hope that the family who currently resides there will have success in finding suitable, affordable housing and that living at the rectory allowed them to save money that will assist in this goal. Discussion on the bulletin included having more parish news. Father Matt shared that he plans to drop the ad page and is sending a thank you note to all those who have advertised in the bulletin and encourage them to continue seeing the bulletin as a resource to use if they have something to share. Parish Council members encourage parents to use the library and atrium as “cry room” space as needed. Chris has agreed to represent the Parish Council at the Dec 16 Finance Committee meeting.

**Next Meetings:** December 8 at 7:30 pm special meeting. February 2, 2022 at 7:00 pm for scheduled Parish Council meeting.