

**ST. JOSEPH'S**

**PARISH**



**COUNCIL**

**Please see our Parish bulletin, website and calendar  
for news and upcoming events  
[www.stjholland.org](http://www.stjholland.org)**

**ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH COUNCIL**

**Date: September 13, 2018**

**Time: 7:00PM**

**ATTENDEES:**

Fr. Benjamin  
Kathleen Gray  
Carolyn Kramer  
Cathy Levesque  
Katie McMicken  
Bill Place  
Norm Turner  
Pam Turner

**ABSENTEES:**

Deacon Mark Kehl  
Joe Levesque  
Jim McBride  
Dustin Bliss  
Amy Rogers

Opening prayer by Kathleen

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Signs In/Out of Town and Signs:**
  - Signs are up and they look great!
  - Four signs cost **\$3720** Total: Two signs entering Holland and two signs for the cemetery. Installation and removal of old signs were included.
  - Some parishioners commented on the signs being too small, but many others commented on how great they look.
- **Lifetouch Photo Book (Cathy):**
  - 18 families need to sign up to have picture taken in order to come back.
  - Still offering the free 8x10
  - Cathy can't get 18 families to sign up.
  - Even if we take pictures of individuals in each ministry, that still would not be enough people to meet the 18 "family" minimum.
  - For the time being, it does not look as if there will be enough families for Lifetouch to come back for pictures.
- **Flocknote:**
  - 58 Total people so far.
  - Norm is working on the current updates on Flocknote. You can now update individual emails.
  - Flocknote raised the price to \$13/Month. We still have about 20 months of free.
  - Cathy notified parishioners who won and they donated the gift cards back to the parish in order to go to needy families.
- **Faith Formation (Cathy):**
  - Cathy begins enrollment over each year with new sign-ups. She inactivates all kids from the previous year and has to re-register all students.
  - 88 Students total and only ½ registered during the sign-ups
  - The new Faith Formation year begins, Sunday September 16th.
  - Parent meeting during the first class
  - There will be an adult session on September 30th
  - Father is going to teach on the Saints and Deacon will talk about another subject
  - Deacon Mark and and Father Benjamin will be trying to meet with families one on one. In order to get to know the families better and to answer any questions they may have.

- **Picnic:**
  - **\*SEE New Business** for dates and Mass times for next year's picnic.
  - Picnic had a great turnout.
  - Pam said it may be a great idea to ask for donations next year because the Basket Raffles are popular and well received by attendees.
  - Sherry Krezeminski offered to help with next year's picnic.
- **Finance Committee (email from Joe Kerber to Carolyn):**
  - New Church signs installed at each end of town and at each cemetery utilizing our "Upon This Rock" funds.
  - Building and Grounds committee meets Wed., September 12 at 7pm.
  - Finance Committee meets Monday, September 17th to review and finalize fiscal year end reports and prepare for financial reporting to diocese and communication to parishioners in late October.
  - Cemetery has had an active year with 5 burials associated footer/foundations for headstones.
  - Trying to have a Cemetery Committee meeting sometime mid October.
  - Fr. Benjamin and Joe Kerber will attend an afternoon Catholic Cemeteries seminar at the seminary on Nov. 8th
- **Pictures of Committee Members:**
  - The question was raised: Should pictures be taken by Lifetouch of Parish Council members for the Photo book and for the wall?
  - Most parish council members agreed that there wouldn't be a great enough benefit to displaying pictures of committee members.
  - Pictures possibly added to Lifetouch Photo book if there are enough families willing to sign up for pictures.
- **Social Committee Chairperson:**
  - No Social Committee Chairperson really needed or necessary at this time.
  - The Council reviewed Standing Committees and their Parish Council Partners and found that Community Life needs a new Parish Council Partner.
    - Katie volunteered and is now the Parish Council Partner for Community Life.
  - The St. Joseph's Parish Committees list needs to be updated.
- **Grief Ministry (Ann):**
  - Nothing to Report.

- **Respect Life (Katie):**

- Diaper and Wipes drive was a success! The pregnancy center was overwhelmed with gratitude for the donation.
- The Respect Life committee will have the same collection in 2019.
- October is Respect Life Month
- Life Chain is on Sunday, October 7th from 2-3pm
  - Chairs will be provided
  - Refreshments afterwards

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **2018-2019 Calendar:**

- New dates (see Calendar)
- No April Coffee & Donuts
- No Parish Council meeting in November.

- **Folding Tables (Norm):**

- Pam and Norm asked if parishioners could possibly make a donation to replace the old, heavy tables with lighter plastic tables. Norm had the cost of each table detailed in an email to Carolyn.
  - Bill said that 10 new tables would be plenty.
  - Bill stated the parish uses 20 tables for the picnic.
  - Cathy stated that funds from “Upon This Rock” could not be used for new tables. There is a list of items to be funded by “Upon this Rock” and some major projects are still needed.
  - Some Parish Council members thought that it would not be well received by parishioners to ask for more donations because of Upon This Rock just ending. It would be too much to ask parishioners at this time. This matter is still open for suggestions.

- **2019 Picnic & Church Times (Pam & Norm):**

- Picnic 2019:
  - Chairperson: Pam Turner
  - Co-Chair: Ann Everetts
  - Picnic Donation Chair: Barb Snyder
- Pam raised the question if the 8am Mass should be omitted to try and encourage more parishioners to attend the picnic. Only the 10:30am Mass would be on the Sunday of the picnic at the shelter.
- Father and other Parish Council members didn't think there would be enough benefits to omitting 8am Mass on the day of the picnic. This matter was still open for discussion and left undecided.
- Reserve the shelter for Sunday, July 28th if not available then reserve on August 11th

- Cathy notified Parish Council members the next day that she reserved the shelter for Sunday, July 28th
  - Picnic will be held Sunday, July 28th After 10:30am Mass
  - **To Do:** Could use more help at the picnic. Would it be possible for Confirmation kids to help out with picnic for service hours?? - ask Deacon Mark if that's possible.
- **Upon This Rock Update (Fr. Benjamin):**
  - Funding and installation timing of the new roof was discussed. A new roof is estimated to cost over \$50,000. Only a fraction of that cost will be covered by funds from "Upon This Rock".
  - Some parishioners have discussed contributing to the new roof with Fr. Benjamin. When the time is appropriate Father may meet with certain parishioners to ask for donations for the roof.
  - Cathy and other parish council members agreed that it is a very sensitive topic to discuss with parishioners because of the contributions just made by parishioners for "Upon This Rock".
  - It was agreed upon that timing is crucial when asking for further donations.
  - Parishioners **must be** informed about where "Upon This Rock" funds are being spent. Bulletin inserts and announcements have communicated this to parishioners.
  - Money from "Upon This Rock" is already spent and going to specific projects. This has been and will continue to be communicated to parishioners.
  - The Parish needs to be transparent when informing parishioners the need for new roof and communicate in a thoughtful way that although "Upon This Rock" funds help with this cost it does Not fully fund the project and further contributions are needed in order for the new roof to be installed.
  - Finance Committee and Parish Council have to strategically lay out a plan on how to present this need to parishioners in a timing that won't make parishioners feel overburdened.
  - A suggestion was made to start asking for contributions for the roof, now in order to build up funds when the time comes for installation in a few years.
  - Cathy and some other parish council members had concerns that it was too soon to ask for contributions and it may not be well received by parishioners and could possibly turn people off to contributing all together because it's so close to the "Upon This Rock" campaign and perceived as asking too much.
- **Bereavement Ministry (Fr. Benjamin & Carolyn):**
  - Pam is Chair and Carolyn is Co-Chair
  - Pam is calling Parishioners and introducing herself as the new Chair
  - Pam and Norm are going to put a drop down on Flocknotes for

Bereavement Ministry

● **Pastor Christmas Wish-List:**

- When discussing the roof and needs for improvement it came up that there are small items that are needed for the parish that can not be covered by Altar and Rosary Society and can't come from other funds like "Upon This Rock".
  - Some of the suggested items are listed but not limited to:
    - Altar linens
    - Banners
    - Decorations
- Father Benjamin stated that in his last parish the Pastor would have a Christmas "wish-list" of items big and small that were needed for the Church. Parishioners would either buy those items on the list or give a monetary Christmas donation to go towards those items listed as needed.
- Should we come up with a list and present the list to parishioners at Christmas? If they are interested in making a donation to the parish at Christmas it could go to buying these items. Or parishioners could purchase these items as a Church Christmas gift. Thus leaving it up to parishioners to either purchase items from the list or give a monetary gift for the items to be purchased.
- This could be a great way to get the small items that the Church needs that we just don't have the extra money for.
- This topic was left open for discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm, with closing prayer by Carolyn Kramer

**NEXT MEETING IS Thursday October 11th AT 7:00PM in the Parish Hall**  
**\*No Meeting in November\***  
**Opening prayer will be offered by Katie**  
**Closing prayer will be offered by Carolyn**