

Minutes of Joint Meeting of Parish Councils of St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches - January 19, 2017
6:30 p.m. – St. Casimir Old School Hall (Life Prep.)

DRAFT

Members Present from St. Casimir's: Fr. Mike Powell, Deb Blee, Kathy Domeier, Ray Gorski, Julie Morales, Cindy Pasiuk, Cathy Rajtar, Tony Young (Trustee), Dawn Zamora (Trustee), Pete Barrett (St. Casimir Finance Council President), Sandy Conroy, LauraRose Paradis, Tom Schwietz (St. Casimir Parishioners)

Members Present from St. Patrick's: Wayne Craig, Margie Mueller, Dave Pellowski, Houa Her, Jeannie Berres, Mayka Ly Lo, and Wayne Heaser . Absent: Karen Berres & Donna Oman.

Father Mike opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Joint Parish Picnic:

A joint parish picnic of St. Casimir's and St. Patrick's parishioners had been suggested and is discussed. The Phalen Park Pavilion is reserved for Sunday June 25, 2017. Members from St. Patrick Church explained that they have been having a summer parish picnic on a week night at Phalen Park Pavilion, and furnish meats (hot dogs, brats) and buns, water and lemonade and attendees bring other food dishes to share. Attendance is roughly 100. Members from St. Casimir's described their parish picnic: on a Sunday afternoon in late June, at the Phalen Park Pavilion. The church furnishes meats (hot dogs, hamburgers, pork loin roast), the picnic supplies (plates, flat wear, napkins), and parishioners bring other food items to share. Attendees can play bingo, and a scavenger hunt or other games are played by children. A game to encourage attendees to meet each other was a very successful start to the 2016 picnic attended by about 50 parishioners. No mass would be said in the park before the 2017 picnic. Members of St. Patrick's felt that the Sunday afternoon timing would be good for their parishioners. Many of them travel a considerable distance to attend church and the event, and on Sunday, work would be less of a conflict. St. Casimir's members also felt that the joint event was desirable. The council presidents agreed to proceed planning a joint parish picnic for June 25, 2017 at the Phalen Park Pavilion. The two parishes would share costs equally. Council presidents would call for volunteers from each parish to form a committee to work together in planning the picnic details.

Mass Schedules:

The current Sunday morning mass schedule is 9:00 a.m. at St. Casimir's and 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's. Father Mike does both masses, and he needs more time between them. He greets parishioners after the first mass, changes out of the vestments, travels to the second church, dresses for mass and needs to start mass by 10:30. Any delay in these actions is stressful and can make him late for the second mass. He cannot stay for any hospitality event after the first mass. Also, if mass preparations at St. Patrick's are not done by his arrival, mass may not start on time. Father Mike explained that the size of the two congregations together justifies only one priest. A St. Patrick's council member states that they have a fund of \$2,000 to hire other priests to come to do a mass. Father Mike believes that this is not

financially desirable for the parish as a resolution to this scheduling problem. Discussion covered a number of suggestions:

1) Change masses at each church by 15 minutes, earlier to 8:45 a.m. at St. Casimir and later to 10:45 at St. Patrick's: Discussion revealed concerns from both parishes that changing mass times results in loss of parishioners - this was observed when changes occurred in recent years. Regarding an earlier start, it was stated that young families have problems getting children up and ready to get to services if they begin too early. Also mentioned was that older or health-challenged parishioners have trouble getting to early services too, because they get going more slowly in the morning. For St. Patrick's, children preparing for First Communion (20) and children in CCD classes (100-125) now meet from 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. and attend mass at 10:30 a.m. with their family. Some have traveled a long way to get there, and by keeping everyone on the grounds, parents and children attend mass together. Some of the people must work following the morning services. The current schedule prevents Father Mike from coming to meet CCD children during their classes. Moving CCD to a week day evening would not be good for their parish because of the travel and work schedule needs of their parents and children. St. Patrick's members did not see moving the Sunday mass start to 11:00 a.m. to be good, as when this was done previously, they lost parishioners. Some catechists work later on Sunday.

2) Alternate Sunday mass locations the way that Saturday evening masses alternate. This was felt to be excessively complicated and off putting for parishioners.

3) It was suggested that more involvement and participation of parishioners would be helpful in trying to come up with a solution. Open meetings were suggested, as were surveys of parishioners. While surveys were done last year, the amount of participation seemed limited, and there was difficulty getting consensus. Nevertheless, these give parishioners participation in the decision making.

No decision on mass schedules could be reached at this meeting. It was agreed by the councils to have each parish council president present the mass schedule concerns to their congregation. They would request volunteers to help prepare a survey and get input from parishioners and explore schedule change options. A resolution of the schedule problem is needed by summer, which is when Father Mike would wish to have the change become operative.

The councils felt that this joint meeting was worthwhile and suggested having joint parish council meetings twice a year.

Meeting adjourned about 7:50 p.m.