

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2025

<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
FATHER BILL LUCAS	YES
MARY BURNS	YES
BERNIE FUNDERBURG	YES
DEBBIE GOSSETT	YES
MEAGAN PRICE	NO
JEFF REACH	YES
BRENDA ROCHFORD	YES
ALLEN ROSS	YES
JORGE SOLIS	YES
PAUL THOMAS	NO

- Opening prayer was by Bernie Funderburg
- Motion to approve the minutes.

- The attachment for the financial committee could not be opened.
- Brenda will resend the attachment.
- Columbarium committee had their semiannual meeting on January 28.
- They did not sell any addition plaques or niches.
- They've sold over about 60% of the niches.
- Deacon Serge will be contacted about the pricing from Goodgame..
- The pricing is just an estimate.
- They have about 2 million in their building fund.
- They'll need to have a three or five year capital campaign to raise money.
- Building is expensive right now.

Knights of Columbus

- Preparing for the fish fry. They will start at 5:00 followed by Stations of the Cross
- James checked and luckily the prices will be the same as last
- Luckily the prices will be the same as last year. March 8th will be Divine Mercy at 10:00 am

Finance

- January 2025 reports didn't add up, so they will have to be redone.
- January income was \$43,317.29 and expenses were \$34,244, leaving about \$9,073.29 under budget.
- Diocesan and reserves are almost 2.5 million:
- \$500,000 is for the building fund.
- About \$2 million is for the building fund.
- Other funds:
- \$63,000 in the building at Metro Bank.
- Operating cash was \$24,500 as of January 31st.
- Miscellaneous building funds (including social concerns, prison ministry) is \$77,000.
- \$14,800 is for perpetual care.
- Special projects fund has almost \$24,000.
- The finance council meeting will meet on March 17.

Prison Ministry

- Father Bill is taking over for Deacon Lee.
- The plan is to close St. Clair when the new super max prison in Elmore County is built.
- St. Clair was originally built for 800 inmates, but currently houses 1500.

Liturgy Committee

- Met on January 23 and will meet again on February 27.
- Ash Wednesday services:
- 9am Mass in English.
- 7pm Mass will be bilingual.
- OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults):
- Two people will probably be received into the church and confirmed on March 30th at 11:15 Mass.
- Communal penance service will be on Monday, April 7.
- Holy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00pm.
- Easter Vigil has to be at 8:00pm.
- Two masses in English and one in Spanish on Easter Sunday.
- The liturgical minister schedule is already out, starting March 1st.
- If liturgical ministers didn't get a schedule, they should call the office.

Religious Ed

- Burning of palms after the 8:30 mass this Sunday.
- Kids meet there, eat donuts, then go to class.
- No class the first weekend of spring break.
- May 4: Class at 11:15, mass is still first communion.
- May 17 at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart with the Bishop: Confirmation.
- There will "probably" be a retreat for confirmation class.
- Sponsors don't have to come, but are welcome.

Maintenance

- Lights in the church were replaced.
- Promised a new water fountain in December, but it hasn't appeared.

New Business

- Bernie, Debbie, and Alan are finishing their second term and cannot run for a third term.
- Three new members will be selected.
- Rotating members will be the nominating committee.
- Announcement will be made for the parish at large next weekend.
- If they or someone they know would like to serve on the parish council, let them know.
- Ask people before nominating them.
- May is the last meeting of the fiscal year.
- Ranked choice voting is used.
- Nominating committee ranks names (first choice is one, second choice is two, etc.).
- Lowest number is choice number one.
- Keep record in case someone doesn't complete their term.
- Goal for March and April meetings: get names of people willing to serve.
- Aim to have the list complete by the April meeting.
- Current council members should consider potential candidates.
- Qualifications for pastoral council:
 - Member of the parish and Catholic.
 - Active in the parish.
 - Has good judgment.
- Three positions to fill.

Old Business: Church Directory

- Final version is complete.
- After multiple emails, the directory is ready to print.
- Follow up email to confirm printing.
- Hopefully ready by the end of March.

Food Ministry Application

- The food ministry application states that if an applicant doesn't currently have a food ministry, they are not the top priority, but will eventually be considered.
- Brenda Rochford is hopeful and plans to follow up on the application, giving them until the end of next week before sending another email.
- There are currently 14 volunteers, 15 if the speaker counts herself, and she plans to include Carl as the food pickup person.
- The speaker suggests using the food ministry's guidelines for who qualifies for assistance for the first six months to avoid having to drop anyone later.

Food Ministry Logistics

- The facility will need to be inspected, and training will be required, including Serve Safe certification.
- Brenda spoke with Deacon Surge, who volunteers at the Christian Love Pantry, about potentially partnering with them to purchase items at a lower cost.
- Brenda wants to ensure people are not "double dipping" and understands that the people they serve will go through the Community Food Bank of Alabama for vetting.
- The applications will have to go through the Community Food Bank of Alabama.

Knights of Columbus Request

- The Knights of Columbus are compiling a list of parishioners who have served in the armed forces, both deceased and current members.
- They requested an announcement and bulletin insert to gather information from parishioners.
- Shelley in the office should be contacted about the bulletin.
- The Knights want to do something nice for veterans, like a remembrance on Memorial Day.

Pilgrimage Discussion

- Diane Hart inquired about the pilgrimage.
- If people are coming to Alexander City and want mass and confessions, they'll have to bring their own priest.
- The 11 churches are offering the option to visit and spend time in prayer.
- Father Bill said he was unsure if any of the pilgrimage sites are offering special services.

Holy Doors and Stations

- The last holy year, the holy doors were at the cathedral in Birmingham.
- The stations are located throughout the diocese for convenience.
- St. John's is the furthest southeast of the diocese.

St. Jude's Monastery

- St. Jude's Monastery offers Holy Mass at 7:30am every day except 7:00 on Fridays.
- The sisters are behind a grill, separated from the participants.
- The Divine Office is done immediately after Mass.
- The rosary is around 11:30.

Pilgrimage

- As a pilgrimage, you usually go as a group.
- It doesn't sound like they're changing their schedule for tour groups for pilgrimage groups.

Indulgence

- To receive the indulgence, you have to go to confession.
- "You're supposed to have a complete detachment from sin to have to receive a plenary indulgence really quick. If you have a partial detachment from sin, then you receive a partial."
- Confession is offered during the whole year.

Family Night

- Suggestion to do family night after Easter because the Knights are doing fish every Friday night.
- Bowling is a good activity for family night.
- Other ideas for family night: Bingo, bonfire.

Movie Night

- Idea to use a 20-foot projector screen..
- The Ten Commandments is a long movie and would be in two parts.
- Suggestion to put a white sheet up on the side of the building and use that as a screen.
- Showing a copyrighted movie to friends is okay for individuals.
- Organizations technically need a license to show movies.
- A karate center received a cease and desist letter for showing movies without a license.

Closing Prayer Father Bill

- Next meeting: March 19th.
- George Solis will do the opening prayer on the 19th.