

SAINT ISAAC JOGUES PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2015
SAINT ISAAC JOGUES PARISH OFFICE

Present: Father Darrell, Deacon Bill Kolarik, Deacon Dominic, Deacon Jim, L. Judd, G. Krause ,L. Berlin, R. DeKeyzer, J. Beckman, S. Brune, J. Hogan, J. Richardson

Absent: D. Mahalak

Meeting was opened with a prayer from Father Darrell at 7:05 PM

The January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather so there were no minutes to approve.

Pastoral Update: Father reported that the Fill the Church program has begun. It will be held on the first Sunday of every month at the 9:30 Mass. The first one will be March 1. The second one will be on Easter Sunday, April 5. Children will participate in all aspects of the Mass; the choir, readers, servers, ushers and offertory gift presenters. There will be some sort of fellowship in the parish hall after Mass. Letters to parents of school children and religious education children will be sent home to let everyone know about the Mass. It will also be listed in the bulletin and on the website. Teachers will follow up with students during the week to reinforce the idea of this Mass.

The School Open House held in January was the best one ever. Attendance was good and 3 new families enrolled in the school. There's a local Lutheran school closing in the near future. The idea was brought up that perhaps we could send literature about what SIJ School has to offer to the parents of that school or even have Tim go there to make some type of presentation to the principal and staff or to parents to promote SIJ as a possible school for their students when their school closes.

Sister Catherine Marie is researching a program from a company who can be retained to build a Science Lab in the school. Sister is planning to raise money for this project which would be a wonderful addition to our school.

Father is still waiting on commitments from 2 parishioners to fill the Education and Stewardship commission roles.

Old Business:

A long discussion was held about the handicap accessibility of the SIJ church. Ken is going to contact Detroit Elevator to do a survey of the feasibility and costs of installing an elevator that would be located off the parking lot and would be able to go up into the church or down into the social hall. Deacon Bill also suggested that Ken contact Frank McDonald at the AOD to review compliance and also give us ideas for improving our building access. Several suggestions were made to take into consideration: repave the front driveway to eliminate the curb, make the front driveway drop off only, evaluate the number and location of handicapped parking spaces in the lot, explore the option of a volunteer valet ministry or volunteers to pick up parishioners who can't drive to church but would be able to come if someone picked them up. Father suggested that we request the help of parishioners to form a committee for this project. We could advertise for help in the bulletin for parishioners who have experience with construction and architecture. Improving building access is a big project but must be done to make sure that the parish church is easily accessible to all who want to attend.

The timeline for the closing of SAM church was discussed. As previously decided, the Mass schedule at SAM will change beginning July 1. A survey of parishioners in the church will be taken at the end of March to give everyone a chance to vote on which Mass to keep at SAM. Father noted that the Saturday Mass is usually more crowded than the Sunday Mass, but we'll let the survey voting decide.

Father would like to speak to the parishioners attending Mass at SAM the weekend of March 7/8 to find out what we can do to have them come to SIJ church when the SAM building closes. He'd like to know what things we can do to make the transition easier for everyone. He wants to make it comfortable and welcoming for all to come. Some of the proceeds that SAM brought to the merged parish will be

used to improve the building by making it more handicapped accessible at SIJ. **We will conduct a survey of parishioners to gather ideas. A card with ideas listed and also blank space to write in others will be distributed at both Mass at SAM and parishioners will be asked to return the completed cards within the next week to the parish office or in the collection basket. Results of the survey will be reviewed at the April PPC meeting.**

Once the ideas for what's needed to be done at SIJ for improved building access or other things needed have been evaluated and approved, a timeline for construction will have to be determined. The estimated completion of the projects will be used in the planning for the SAM timeline for tentative building closure. It was also discussed once again that the closing of SAM was based on many factors, with finances being only one of them. Number of sacraments being performed, vibrant ministry participation and strengthening and unifying the parish church also play a strong role in the decision.

Changing Lives Together: A check was recently received from the AOD for the SIJ portion of some Changing Lives Together donations.

Pastoral Update: Some of the staff will be attending Part 1 of ParishSoft training. Jenifer and Tim will be going for the first time and Father Darrell and Cindy will be attending as a refresher. In addition, St. Joan of Arc has offered to share their expertise with using the software if we need it in the future. Father has also requested donor reports from the system to use in writing thank you letters to parishioners. There will also be a Part 2 of ParishSoft training for our group to attend.

Finance: Gerri and Steve reported that we are making periodic loan payments and that the final invoice on convent renovations has been paid. There are a couple of things planned to do at the convent still, but they are budgeted items. It was noted that the SIJ church offertory appears to be trending down. Collections will be monitored and analysis done using reports from the ParishSoft system to look for explanations. However, the Christmas collection to date is approximately \$90,000, which is better than budget, which was \$87,000.

Worship: Julie reported that there are 2 new SIJ ushers, one at the 4:00pm Mass and one at the 11:30 Mass. There are 7 adults and 7 children in this year's RCIA group. The 2015 Lent and Easter liturgical calendar was reviewed and will be published in the bulletin. All liturgies will be held at the SIJ church with one Mass being held at SAM on Easter Sunday.

Christian Service: Joan Richards reported that they are hoping to schedule a Blood Bank in March. A senior luncheon is held every 2 months at the SAM social hall, which allows for more parishioners from both churches to attend since it's all on one floor. The next one will be on March 19. The Adopt-A-Family program was very successful this year. Many groups and staff took families to adopt. Forty-eight families were adopted, 45 with gifts for children as well as food and 3 with food only, no children in the household. Parents with children up to age 17 are assisted with gifts, unless there are also younger children in the family, and then the older child would also be included in the gift giving. Families were given a full holiday dinner and additional food for this time since children are home from school for the Christmas vacation and more food is needed.

Vicariate: Jim reported the next meeting has been rescheduled to February 7. He attended a Men's Ministry group at St. Paul's on the Lake which is held the first 3 Thursdays of each month from 7:00-8:00am. He said the group was fantastic and was very welcoming. We are looking for at least 3 men from SIJ to attend the training session for this ministry on March 7. Father suggested 2 names to Jim and will also let him know of a couple more that he thought might be interested. Jim is supposed to bring 3 names with him to the next meeting. Jim also brought information back with him from a speaker about the young adult ministry which Father will give to Buzz.

Old Business: Lou Anne reported that the original printing of the new masthead in the bulletin was not very clear. Her daughter sent another copy of the template which Lou Anne forwarded to Tim to use and the printing in the recent bulletins has improved. It is much clearer. Father noted that the background color of the masthead will change with the liturgical seasons.

Our music minister, Alexandra will play at SAM on the second weekend of each month. This is the same weekend that Father Darrell will celebrate the Masses and the choir will sing on Sunday.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15pm.

Our next meeting will be March 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the St. Isaac Jogues Parish office.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerri Krause