

St. Matthew Parish Council Meeting
February 23, 2011
Please visit our web site!! www.stmatthewct.org

Present: Father Jim Carini, Father Jim Sucholet, Alaric Fox, Brenda Falusi, Reeni Vinci, Flavio Gaudio, Ann Nolan, Scott Mokoski, Dave Kostyk, Jim Marie, Linda Rojemko, Karen Sheridan

Chairperson: Scott Mokoski

Opening Prayer: Flavio Gaudio

Pastor's Remarks: Fr. Jim Carini, Annual Bishops Appeal has been renamed to Annual Catholic Appeal. The Appeal will take place earlier in Lent – April 2nd, and 3rd. Pre-Appeal is scheduled for March 26/27. Area Social is being scheduled for March 7th or 8th at St. Joseph's, Willimantic at 6:00.

Committee Reports:

Youth Committee: Nothing to report.

Faith Formation: Flavio Gaudio

First Reconciliation will take place March 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Students will participate in a Last supper on March 28th. First Eucharist will take place May 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, June 4th, 5th, and 12th, individual ceremonies on May 29th and June 18th.

Why Catholic: Brenda Falusi, Reeni Vinci

Progressing very well, receiving positive feedback. People that are unable to participate at this time are looking into future involvement. There is a lot of interest in studying the sacraments. We are investigating ways to involving entire family in studies. We would like to explore including young adolescence, but current materials are geared to adults.

Development: Brenda Falusi

We are currently looking for volunteers. We would like to run fundraisers and/or social gatherings later in the year. Possibilities: Dance or Storytelling.

Stewardship: Dave Kostyk

In planning: Service for Blessed Mother, Would like to set up a "How can I help" bulletin board, and a suggestion box. Possibly incorporate something into the website to attract involvement.

Building and Maintenance: Scott Mokoski

Work has been done to repair and prevent water issues in the church hall. With the heavy snow this winter we are looking closely at the increased expense of snow plowing the parking areas and snow removal off the roof.

Communications: Linda Romejko

We are continuing to work on improving the registration process for faith formation classes. Last year was very successful from the user side of the application, but we are working to improve the administrative side of the process.

Liturgy: Alaric Fox

Looking for additional Liturgical Ministers. There is a large need for help with Arts and Environment for alter preparation. We are investigating ways to increase volunteerism. Possibilities include minimizing the commitments to smaller intervals per person, and adjusting the timing of volunteer hours to be outside of regular business hours. Baptismal font is on hold.

ProLife: Reeni Vinci

Two new billboards have been put up. The bottle and can drive is getting a good response. Increasing the awareness around expectant mothers reviewing an ultrasound before an abortion.

Peace and Justice: Jim Marie

Investigating the devotion of Angelus Bells. Would like to reach out to youth in the parish. Would like to look into the possibility of distributing pamphlets to educate parishoners on the devotion.

PreSchool: Nothing new to report

Carnival :Nothing new to report

Haiti Ministry: Karen Sheridan

We recently shipped six drums of clothes, toothpaste, tooth brushes, baby formula, vitamins, hats, etc. Change for Haiti collected \$1040.00. The trip to Haiti has been tentatively planned for April 13th – 18th.

Pastoral Planning: Fr. Jim

Cluster meeting with St. Bernards, Vernon. Time was spent summarizing strengths of each parish. We are looking into building this relationship to support each parish. Possible areas to share successful efforts: Youth Group, Bereavement, Funeral Planning, Adult Education

New Business:

Discussion around an adult faith formation room. As the Adult faith formation grows we are in need of an area suitable for adult gatherings, and storage of materials. Space is currently limited. The option to utilize private homes or public alternatives was discussed.

Prayer Intention for March: *For nations in the Middle East going through turmoil. May God guide them toward greater freedom, justice and peace for all citizens and may their leaders turn away from a violent response to the people's expressions of their needs.*

*Respectfully submitted, Karen Sheridan