



Saint Louis Catholic Church

13 Saint Louis Place- Batesville, Indiana 47006

Phone (812-934-3204-Fax (812-933-0667)

Vision Statement: Spreading Christ's Love and compassion through our words and actions (LEO) Liturgy-Prayer, Catholic Education, Evangelization, and Community Outreach.

Parish Council Minutes

Date: January 20, 2015

Attendance: Fr. Stan, Amy Tonges, Rheadawn Young, Tom Geis, Nathan Wanstrath, Leron Giesting, Andy Eckstein, Mark Masavage, Nelson French, Jade Ritter.

Meeting called to Order by: President Mark Masavage

Opening Prayer: Father Stan Pondo

Introduction of Fr. Stan,

Is our Temporary Administrator, he has been a Priest since 1998. Fr. Stan has a degree in Law also a degree in Canon Law which he received in Rome. He is the Vicar Judicial of the Metropolitan Tribunal. Most importantly he is of Polish decent. Welcome!!

Comments by Fr. Stan,

Father started his comments with I am glad to be here! He is hoping to be assigned here permanently in July. It depends on how the 2 jobs fit together. He is one of six kids, 3 sisters, and 2 brothers. His middle brother Ken has passed away at 41 years, 20 years ago. He grew up in East Chicago. He has a side kick named Oliver, who is the size of a small black bear, but is very gentle!! (Stan & Ollie)

New Business:

Pastors Report:

Fr. Stan started with a letter from the Archdiocese the Archbishop wants to reform the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. It has not existed for many years. Fr. has been asked to nominate a person to sit on the Council, so he would like to ask the Parish Council for a nominee. After much discussion John Kellerman's name was put into the hat for a nominee and he accepted.

School Report: Principle Chad Moeller sent his report to President Mark which he read to the Council.

01/20/15

Indiana Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Janet Wilson, our junior high social studies teacher, won the Batesville VFW Educator of the Year Award. Winning the local award allowed her nomination to move forward to the State level. I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Wilson has won the VFW Educator of the Year Award for the State of Indiana! She will be honored at an event in Indianapolis on January 31.

National Award for Mrs. Lents

Mrs. Jenny Lents, our junior high language arts teacher, was named the Distinguished Educator for the State of Indiana by the National Catholic Educators Association. Her nomination moved forward and she was then named the Distinguished Educator for the Great Lakes Region of the U.S. The NCEA breaks the U.S. into 9 regions so she is one of only nine teachers in the nation to earn this recognition. Mrs. Lents will be recognized at an event in Orlando, Florida on April 7.

SLS Rates an "A"

In 2014, the State of Indiana rated St. Louis School an "A" school for ninth straight year. SLS is the only school in Southeastern Indiana to earn this designation every year.

Preschool Wows the Crowd

"Hey Preschool, Oh Yeah, Hey Preschool, Oh Yeah, Show me how you get down," SLS Preschool Director Maureen Esser cheered along with more than 40 black-shirted clad preschool students.

The St Louis School preschool students and their families filled the stands Tuesday, Jan. 13 at the St. Louis Activity Center during the Cardinal Chirp. The preschoolers were invited to cheer during halftime of the boys St. Louis School and St. Nicholas School basketball game.

As a Christmas gift, each preschooler was given a Cardinal Chirp t-shirt (on the back it said "Future Cardinal in Training"). The preschool students wore their t-shirts to the basketball game, had their photos taken with the cardinal mascot and received a free popcorn.

Student Council Conducts Drives for Food Pantry

Our student council recently conducted two successful drives for the Batesville food pantry. They decided that families that need help with food probably could use help in other ways also. So in addition to collecting food in the month of October, they led an effort to collect Halloween costumes for children in need. 62 costumes were collected. In December, they conducted a toy drive and 226 toys were collected and delivered to the food pantry. Both were so successful, the student council plans to do it again next year.

Great First Impression

The 3rd grade sent letters to Fr. Stan. He made a special trip from Indianapolis to meet the students and thank them. All of this was before his move to Batesville last week.

Thank You Mr. Moeller, we hope you are feeling better.

Council Committee Reports:

Financial Report: has been moved to February 17, 2015.

Mr. Witka has moved his day in Batesville to Thursday.

Finance Report: February/June

School Report: January/August

Faith Report: March/September

Parish Life: April/October

Amy Tonges will invite the New Marketing Committee to our February Meeting.

Membership Report: Rheadawn Young

Concern of decline in Membership;

Rheadawn and John Strange have gone over the parish directory back to 2008 to try to find reasons for the decline. Some have passed away, some have moved. In 2008 we had 1559 families, 2013 we had 1202 families. That is a loss of 357 families. The number of baptisms are down which is also part of the issue, families are not as large, but this is not a reason for the decline in families in the short term, only total individuals, but in the future this translates into future families. If you lose a husband and wife with 3 children that translates to losing 5 future families.

The question is, how do we approach these families or do we? Nathan brought up an issue of families not attending our parish but sent their kids to Saint Louis School. The roles were cleared up at Fr. Randy's first year as Pastor. Maybe the roles were inflated, also passed away and moved.

Thank You Rheadawn

Nelson and John Kellerman are recruiting parishioners for the parish council, I have 2 prospective candidates. If you have a prospect we will contact them if you like.

President: Mark Masavage, memasavage@gmail.com 2016

Vice President: Andy Eckstein, axtine1@gmail.com 2016

Secretary: Nelson French, pruitt1943@gmail.com 2017

Finance Committee: Erik Tuveson

Faith Formation: Leron Giesting

Parish Life: Rheadawn Young

School Commission: Not Active

Members:

Thomas Gies 2016, John Kellerman 2015, Sebastian Moster 2016, Jade Ritter 2016, John Strange 2016, Nathan Wanstrath 2015

Next Meeting: February 17, 2015- 7pm following the 6pm Mass.

The Parish Council can be contacted by e-mail through the St. Louis web site, click Parish Council, there you will find an e-mail form, we will respond.

Parish Council Secretary:

Nelson French

812-212-3723

