

HOLY CROSS PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

- Members present: Fr. Steven, Kelly Geier, Sherry Geier, Pam Blank, Holly Nettleton, Cindy Blank, Tammy Rudolphi, Carl Will, Tony Kuenstler, Kevin Blank, Dusty Smithenry. We thank Tonya Hall for her years of service to the Council.
- Naming of Concerns by Parishioners- none
- Financial Review- Dusty Smithenry and Fr. Steven will work together to build a plan for longer term investments (i.e. CD's, Edward Jones, and Diocesan Catholic Community Foundation). Picnic funds will be transferred to the general church fund account for longer term investment, also.
- **Pastor Report – (Fr. Steven)**
 - Re-structuring the leadership within our Tri-Parish group-Fr. Steven will release his plan for re-organization when Fr. Felix returns in February.
 - October attendance count- Holy Cross count averaged 313 (combined Saturday and Sunday), an 11% increase over 2023. The count was up 5% for the entire Diocese of Belleville. We hope this trend continues.
- **Building and Grounds**
 - Parish Hall rental documents have been updated.
 - Cemetery-Before work begins on the cemetery space on the east side of the road, we will allow the homeowner who borders the south of the property to purchase approximately 10', the length of the lot, to clarify property lines. The homeowner will pay all associated costs.
 - Church restoration-still some trim work to complete. Two additional "Phase 2" projects will be explored. One is to add statuary to the reredos. The other is to add exterior-accent lighting, additional safety lighting, and landscaping to the church properties. Committees will be formed, cost estimates gathered, and the proposals will be brought to the Council to discuss.
 - Parish House basement-we will clean and organize the remaining basement room, replace the carpet to match what the youth rooms have, and possibly paint the paneling. This space will then be used as storage for Family Catechesis, Parish, and parish committees and utilized as additional meeting space, as well.
 - Weddings-clarification of guidelines
 - Funerals-clarification of guidelines
- **St. Joseph School Support-Holly**
 - Cookies with Santa was well received
 - Bingo Night is March 8-this is always a fun event and well attended.
- **Picnic-**
 - Items requested-additional electrical work, replacement of tables for outside use, a "drive" to the chicken cooking area for vehicles loading and unloading equipment.
- **Church Ministries**
 - Pastoral Associate & CRE-Caroline & Ashley-Family Catechesis- Family Catechesis was awarded a grant from Catholic Extension for almost \$18,000! The representatives who visited us for the listening session in November were so impressed by our group. The first half of 2025 will be used to meet with parishioners to plan, prep and to build a team. The project will begin August 2025 and end July 2026.
 - Family Life-Cindy, Tammy-meeting soon to schedule activities, would like to help with the celebration of the re-opening of Holy Cross (contractors, parishioners, Bishop).
 - Youth-Tyler Timm-youth space is finished in Parish House basement.
- Date & Time of Next Meeting-Thursday, March 6 after mass.
- Adjournment & Blessing