

**Our Lady of Peace Parish Finance Council Meeting – January 25, 2023**  
**9:30 am Library Meeting**

ATTENDEES: Rev. Mark Baron, Dave Bertram, Mike Clark, Bill Lucas, Sandra Sobotka, Bill Chromizky, Kellie Moore -Business Manager

**Opening Prayer**

Fr. Mark opened the meeting at 10:30 am with a prayer. The November 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Parish Business**

**1 -Sunday Offertory YTD**

The Sunday offertory actual vs budget for FY 22-23 was reviewed. Through the end of week 26 the offertory is at a budget surplus of \$9,872. December reflected a surplus of \$25,819. The 22-23 weekly budget is \$18,000. The number of parishioners using the online donation service has increased to 420.

**2 – Capital Campaign Interviews**

The leadership team and Fr. Mark will begin to interview capital campaign firms the week of February 1<sup>st</sup>. There are currently four firms from the Diocesan approved vendor list that have responded to our request for a meeting. A firm could be secured as early as March 2023 and fundraising could begin anywhere from April – December of 2023.

**3 – Master Plan – Parish Center**

Newman Architecture & Project Timeline – Newman Architecture will continue to work on the construction drawings for both the new parish center and HVAC system replacement. The expected completion date for the plans is April 2023. Plans will then be presented in person for review by the Diocesan Buildings committee. If approved, construction could begin in the fall of 2023 through early 2024.

**4– Facilities**

- **Stained Glass Windows** - A bid is being secured for both repair and replacement of the stained glass window that is leaking in the church. We will consult the Diocese on this repair after the proposal is received.
- **Staffing** – At this time we will not increase the facility staff. The current staff is sufficiently managing the day-to-day operation of the parish.

## **5 – Blessing Trees 2023**

Will defer report to future meeting.

## **Pastors Report**

### **6 – Pastoral Council**

Fr. Mark continues to meet with his pastoral council and work on a Pastoral Plan and SWOT analysis of the parish. They are assessing the areas of Evangelization, Discipleship, Fellowship, Works of Mercy, and Liturgy. Fr. Mark will introduce the pastoral council in the coming months.

### **7 – Nourish for Caregivers**

Fr. Mark has partnered with Mt. Carmel parish in Darien to begin a new ministry called Nourish for Caregivers that offers support to people caring for their loved ones. The program began in January at Our Lady of Peace and is held the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am. The group had 15 attendees at the first meeting and is facilitated by the Director of Formation from Mt. Carmel parish and the ministry is open to both parishioners and visitors.

### **8 – Rescue Project**

Fr. Mark has formed a group to begin a new program called The Rescue Project at our Parish. The Rescue Project is a Catholic based program that seeks to proclaim the life saving message of the gospel in a compelling and attractive manner through an 8-week course that allows for small group discussion. The program currently has 25 people registered and is free. Weekly sessions will begin in February of 2023 and is open to all parishioners and visitors.

### **9 – Music Ministry**

The parish will continue to utilize the talents of various musicians and cantors at this time. Fr. Mark will continue to oversee the music department and the scheduling of professionals. De Michael Murphy will form a music ministry committee to work with Fr. Mark on future planning and music needs.

## **Financial & Other Reports**

### **10 – CMAA**

The final amount pledged is \$179,307 which is \$67,372 over our parish goal of \$83,507. The current 2022 rebate back to the parish is \$57,454 from 572 generous donors. The CMAA rebate is part of the parish operating budget.

### **11 – Food Pantry**

The December YTD 2022 Food Pantry report was reviewed by the council and the donations cover the cost of the monthly food expense. The ministry has over 25 volunteers and is serving 45-55 families each week. The food pantry operating account currently has a healthy balance of \$50,000 for their ministry needs.

### **12 – Endowment Report**

The parish endowment account currently has a balance of \$299,988. The annual distribution of \$16,000 is used to support the Parish Religious Education Program that serves 167 students in grade 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **13 – DOJ Business Managers Meeting**

The minutes from the October 12, 2022, business managers meeting were reviewed by the council.

### **Other Business**

Fr. Mark asked all members if they would agree to remain on the council for the coming fiscal year. All but one member agreed they would remain active on the council.

Fr. Mark informed the council beginning in February the Saturday 5:00 pm mass will be livestreamed each week through our website, FB and YouTube channel.

Fr. Mark closed the meeting with a prayer at 12:00 noon  
**Next Finance Council Meeting – TBD**