

Immaculate Conception Parish, Ira Township, MI



Parish Council — November 6, 2018 Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Meeting Time: 7:15 PM

Meeting Location: Parish Hall

Member Name	Present	Absent	Position
Fr. Joe Esper parish@iccatholic.org	X		Pastor
Deacon Ken Nowicki kgnowickid@sbcglobal.net		X	Deacon
Deacon Larry Pazkowski deaconlarry@iccatholic.org		X	Deacon, Evangelization Representative
Laura Somogy guardianangelspray4us@gmail.com	X		Council Member, Chairperson (Term 1, Year 1)
Kathleen Grimm kagrimm@comcast.net	X		Council Member (Term 2, Year 1)
Bob Tharrett bobfarming@yahoo.com	X		Council Member (Term 2, Year 2)
Ted Stawiasz tstawiasz@aol.com	X		Council Member, Vice Chair (Term 2, Year 2)
Mary Kot skippykot@yahoo.com	X		Worship Rep.
JoAnn Augustine Jaugustine30@comcast.net	X		Christian Service Rep.
Pam Mertes pamjal99@yahoo.com	X		Stewardship Rep.
Rotating representative – Jim Mattina	X		Long Term Planning Rep.
Rotating representative -		X	Finance Council Rep.

Meeting opened with a prayer at 7:15 pm.

Minutes for the October 2, 2018 meeting approved with two corrections as follows: 1) The Feast of All Souls fell on Friday November 2, not November 3. 2) Bob Tharrett stated he did not pose any questions.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- We now have accurate figures for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, but they haven't yet been reported to Finance Council. In general, we finished in the black by about \$95,000. Once Finance Council has reviewed the numbers, we'll have a one-page summary sheet inserted in the bulletin (with a similar report for the previous fiscal year on the other side).
- We still haven't received official word from the AOD regarding the proposed capital campaign to benefit Catholic education, but the unofficial feedback is that because this would be a very bad time for such a campaign (due to negative publicity in the AOD and elsewhere), it will be postponed for at least a year.
- We are considering our own capital campaign, with a threefold goal of (a) redoing the parish parking lot; (b) remodeling the lower elementary entrance to the school; and (c) beginning to put aside money for the eventual building of a new rectory. These things are strongly recommended by the Long-Term Planning Committee, but haven't yet been presented to the Finance Council.
- The cemetery clean-up a few Saturdays ago was very helpful; also, we're very grateful to the Knights of Columbus for financial assistance and hands-on labor in restoring the stone utility building at the cemetery.



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- Each year the AOD asks parishes to take a head count at all the Masses on two consecutive weekends in the fall; this was done on October 13-14 and October 20-21. Overall, the numbers have been fairly steady over the past 5-6 years.
- Faith Formation enrollment is now at 138 (up slightly from last month).
- The Blue Water Vicariate School Oversight Committee held its annual meeting here at I.C. last week, reviewing the Minimum Viability Criteria worksheets submitted by each of the seven schools, and tentatively approving them for continued funding under the school support program.
- Once again, some of our parishioners participated in the 40 Days for Life campaign held in October and early November.
- This past weekend members of SHINE, the parish youth group, participated in the 30-hour famine, collecting money and sleeping outside in their cardboard shelters next to the parish hall.
- As announced at Mass this weekend, the Archbishop is inviting our parishioners to attend the annual Mass for Deceased Clergy in memory of Fr. Sig Kowalczyk (to be held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary on Tuesday November 20, at 11 am); those planning on staying for lunch needed to inform our parish office by Thursday.
- The charitable organization Land of Peace will once again be here at I.C. this coming weekend; Christmas shopping and other purchases that occur here will help struggling Christians in the Holy Land.
- The athletic department's Horn of Plenty fundraiser will be held on the evening of Saturday November 17.

FINANCE COUNCIL – Minutes attached – Fr. Joe reported.

- There is a Finance Council meeting scheduled next week – will be reviewing the financial report for publication in *The Spotlight*.
- Discussing a rough outline for a possible parish capital campaign.
- There was a special meeting 2 weeks ago regarding AOD policy, we are currently working to get everything in order. The financial report for 2015/2016 and 2017/2018 have been completed and work continues on an official budget.
- Cemetery has been surveyed.
- We will be replacing all the ceiling lights campus wide (with the exception of the rectory) with new LED lights. Work is scheduled to be completed by November 30.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Worship Commission – No minutes – Mary Kot and Fr. Joe reported.

- We participated in the Coast-to-Coast Rosary on Sunday, October 7; over 75 parishioners and visitors took part.
- Eight new altar servers were trained in September and early October.
- A priest representing Cross Catholic Outreach was here on the weekend of October 27-28.
- This past Thursday was the holyday of All Saints; following the 9am Mass, the school held its induction ceremony for the National Junior Honor Society.



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- This past Friday, November 2, was the Feast of All Souls. The annual Memorial Mass for deceased parishioners was held that evening, and those present found it to be a moving event (especially the lighting of candles in memory of their deceased loved ones).
- This past Sunday the Blue Mass was held at 10am, with a special blessing for all first responders following the homily.
- This week the school students will be at Mass on Thursday, as school will be closed on Friday (due to parent-teacher conferences).
- This Sunday will be the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and thus a very special observance of Veterans Day. There will be a blessing for veterans at all the weekend Masses.
- The Advent mailing (with a brochure listing all our Advent activities, and the Christmas Schedule) will be sent out in a few weeks.
- Bishop Fisher is scheduled to preside at the school Mass on Friday November 16, and then visit school afterwards.
- Mass on Thanksgiving Day will be at 9am.
- The Rite of Acceptance (part of the catechumenate process) will be at the 10am Mass on December 2, the First Sunday of Advent.
- Our parish feast day, the Immaculate Conception of Mary, is a holyday of obligation (even though it falls on a Saturday this year). We will have two holyday Masses: 7pm on Friday December 7, and 9am on Saturday December 8. (If someone attends the 4:30pm Saturday Mass instead, that can count for the holyday obligation – *if* the person also attends one of the Sunday Masses.)

Christian Service Commission – No minutes – JoAnn Augustine reported.

- There were six members at the last meeting.
- Since April, 40 birthday cards and 4 get well cards were sent out.
- 3,500 Rosaries were donated to various organizations.
- K of C will sponsor the Coffee and Donuts on November 11 – all donations will go to Desert Angels or Veterans Returning Home.
- The annual Advent Tea will be held December 13.
- The November 3rd Dinner and a Movie will be *Boys Town*.
- The Seniors met on October 11.
- The fall blood drive was cancelled due to conflicts with the 100th anniversary of the church building activities.
- The Stars of Christmas starts at the end of November and sorting will take place December 4 from 8am to noon.
- Our next meeting is November 8.

Education Commission/SAC – No minutes.

Long Term Planning – Minutes attached – Jim Mattina reported.

- The last LTP meeting took place on October 16.



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- Jeff Wooten is the committee chair for the church balcony railing project. Two alumni are starting a fundraiser to collect money for railing. A plaque will be mounted with the names of the donors.
- The cracking in church is being monitored, testing has been done and it does not appear to be a moisture issue.
- The possibility of replacing the rectory is being looked into.
- The school gym calking is pulling away from the walls – this appears to be due to the walls drying out. The walls will continue to be monitored.
- LED lights will be installed campus wide (not in the rectory) – this will provide energy savings that should payback the cost of installation in about 2 years.
- Parking lot repaving should take place within the next couple of years. LTP is currently looking at the options to resurface the lot.
- The front entrance to the school has water draining towards the school. Recommendations are being made as to how to correct this and get the water to drain away from the entrance.
- The cemetery is looking at replacing the asphalt roadway through the entire cemetery. This is a possible spring project.
- Looking into lighting on the church handicap ramp.
- It was noted that the Michigan Historical Society recommends restoring the rectory rather than replacing it
- Next meeting November 20.

Stewardship Commission – No minutes – Pam Mertes reported.

- There have been updates to the children's Mass totes – they now have smaller bags and new books. New folders are being put together for these bags as well.
- A letter was sent out to the various ministries discussing the monthly stewardship breakfasts featuring different ministries.
- Donations from the October breakfast, where the K of C was featured, were given to Fr. Joe for Priesthood Sunday.
- The next Stewardship meeting is November 29.

Parish Life – No meeting – no report.

Vicariate Pastoral Council (VPC) – No minutes – Kathleen Grimm reported.

- The meeting started with UTG guidepost discussion and reflection.
- There was talk of the upcoming UTG weekend that was to take place in all AOD parishes.
- November 16 will be the Parish Day of Renewal.
- November 17 is Intercessory Prayer Team training at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.
- There has been developed "Tools for Teens" based on the ministry of Bl. Solanus Casey.
- Right to Life has doubled the attendance from previous years.
- The next VPC meeting is November 27.

Evangelization – Minutes attached – Kathleen Grimm reported.

- Evangelization now starts their meeting with a teaching segment using FORMED.



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- We are discussing the evangelization plan for the proposed 140 new homes being built off of Short Cut Rd.
- Deacon Larry is hosting a book study.
- The AOD program Nightfever will possibly be hosted here at Immaculate Conception during our annual parish festival, more information to follow.
- George Delis, the newest member of the evangelization Committee shared the story of his return to the Catholic faith.
- Our 2018/2019 budget is still pending.
- The next meeting is November 20.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 100th Anniversary Celebration: ceremony, reception, Archbishop's birthday cards (for which we received a thank-you letter); tentative plan to hold a similar event next year, dedicating a historical marker for Sacred Heart Cemetery. We had a beautiful reception after the dedication and everything seemed to work out perfectly.
- *Unleash the Gospel!*: speaker at Masses this weekend; The 6-Day Challenge; homilies next two weekends to focus on UTG. November 16th is the Parish Day of Renewal.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OPEN FORUM:

- It was noted that the lights in the parking lot near the grotto/parish hall/church have not been coming on after dark.
- Fr. Gagnon was asking if we have gluten free hosts – we do not.
- Our next meeting will be the Christmas Pot Luck – everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be no meeting in January of 2019.

Meeting closed with a prayer at 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: December 4, 2018

Minutes Respectfully Submitted: Amy O'Gara



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday November 20, 2018 –Un-Approved

Attendees: ■ Father Joe Esper ■ Jim Haase Ron Vigneron ■ Jim Mattina
 ■ Bob DeBusschere ■ Jeff Wooten ■ Dennis Cyr ■ Robert Clancy
 ■ Bill Pantalone

Call to Order / Opening Prayer

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

Father Joe led the group in an opening prayer

School Mission Statement was read by all

Meeting minutes from October 16th was reviewed & approved with a correction

Church Repair Update:

- Dr. Sweep has repaired the outside brick work along with tuck pointing the front steps & Father's porch
- Jeff W. updated the committee on fundraising efforts of the 2 Alumna:
 - Jeff W. passed out a donation order form for the project. Donation recommendation is \$54 to get a plaque with the sponsors name engraved.
 - The rail will be forged in December.
 - Installation of the project is sch. Jan. 18
- Bob D. received a quote from Shelving & Rack for a security door. Quote cost \$ 2,826
- New cracks in the church walls are being monitored. Bob D. will continue to take moisture readings.
- Handicap ramp lights will be replaced with a battery operated fixture. Jeff W. to get price for light.

Gymnasium Update:

- The caulk is pulling away from the wall which is an indicator that the foam fill & the HVAC units are working properly to dry out the blocks. Bob D. to continue monitoring.
- Bob D. to take moisture readings & present it to the committee at the next meeting.
- The walls should be repainted this year. Wall preparation will have to be evaluated.
- LED lights:
 - Bob D. is in the process of getting information to change the lights out himself.
 - Bob D. Received a quote but believes this could be done in house
 - Bob C. received the quotes received which was reasonable considering.

Parking Lot Repaving:

- Will be reviewed prior to spring

Parking Lot Lights:

- Bob D. suggests we install (3) wall pack lights like the ones on the garage on the side of the hall to improve the security around the hall.
- Bob D. to set a project plan to secure help & pricing.

LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 20, 2018 –Un-Approved page 2

School:

- Main entrance slab correction plan is in engineering. Will review once recommendations are presented.

Cemetery Update:

- The Cemetery Committee looked at reworking the drain in the Spring.
- Bob D. reviewed the survey which shows the property lines would not gain burial sites as first thought.
- The Cemetery Historical Dedication is scheduled for June 2 at 1:30.

Open discussion:

- Bob D. reported that the Praying Hands Tree Carving will be finished before Christmas. This is located between the garage & the Parish office.

Parish Council Representative:

Next Parish Council Meeting Dec. 4, 2018

LTPC Representative: Jim Mattina

Next Meeting: January 15, 2019 after 6:30 Mass

Meeting Adjourn and Closing Prayer at 8:10 pm

WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2018

Present: Fr. Joseph Esper, Pat Austin, Rene Meldrum, Laura Somogy, Sandy Kott, Mike Mytinger, Mary Kot. Absent: Carole Gafa, Jeff Wooten, Deacon Ken Nowicki, Deacon Larry Paczkowski, Cindy Janisse, Paul Sattler, Ted Stawiasz, Eliana Hogarth.

Meeting opened with prayer at 6:30pm.

Motion to approve Minutes of September 13, 2018 by Rene, supported by Sandy; motion carried.

Fr. Joe's Report:

- We participated in the Coast-to-Coast Rosary held on Sunday October 7; over 75 parishioners and visitors took part.
- Eight new altar servers were trained in earlier this fall (1 boy and 7 girls).
- The celebration of the 100th anniversary of our church (presided at by the Archbishop) was well-attended, as was the reception that followed.
- A priest representing Cross Catholic Outreach was here on the weekend of October 27-28.
- Holy day Masses were held on Thursday November 1 (All Saints), and the annual Memorial Mass for deceased parishioners was held the next day at 7pm. In addition to the names of deceased parishioners on the banners, and the Book of Life, this year we also invited families to bring a small framed photograph of their deceased loved one, and many did; these are on display at the side altars throughout November.
- This past weekend, members of SHINE, the parish youth group, participated in the 30 hour famine, collecting money for the homeless and sleeping outside in their cardboard shelters next to the parish hall.
- Also this past weekend, the Blue Mass—honoring first responders—was held at 10am, with a special blessing for them after the homily.
- As announced at last weekend's Masses, the Archbishop made a special point of inviting any parishioners mourning over the death of Fr. Sig Kowalczyk to attend the annual Mass for Deceased Clergy, and the luncheon following—to be held 11am Tuesday November 20 at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. However, as of this morning no one has called the parish office to RSVP.
- The charitable organization Land of Peace will be here this weekend, selling religious articles from the Holy Land to benefit Christian families there.
- This Sunday, November 11, will be the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and thus a very special observance of Veterans' Day. Therefore, there will be a special blessing for veterans at all the Masses.
- The Advent mailing (a brochure listing all our Advent activities, and the Christmas schedule) will be sent out in a few weeks.
- Bishop Robert Fisher, our regional bishop, will preside at next week's school Mass (Friday November 16), and then visit the school.

- Mass on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday November 22) will be at 9am.

Reports & Updates

Music: The concert scheduled on November 4 at Our Lady of the River was cancelled because of lack of participation. Choirs preparing for the Epiphany Concert. Pat shared a nice note to our parish from a visitor who attended 10am Mass here on October 21 as part of the Cardinal Mooney football team complimenting our choirs and music department on the beautiful singing and harmonizing accompanying the Mass.

Art & Environment: No report, no representation.

Liturgical Ministries: At Parish Council meeting Tuesday evening someone remarked about not being able to hear at back of church. Fr. Joe suggested that if someone hears a lecturer not speaking loud enough, that person should speak to that lecturer about it.

Sacristans: No report; no representation.

Ushers: Clete Schweiger, an usher at IC for over 50 years, passed away. His fellow ushers gathered to say a rosary and gave his family a bible. A young man joined the usher group who is our youngest!

Altar Linens: We will have white altar cloth and white linens on the other tables for Feast of Christ the King.

Loving Hands: We have had a shortage of workers. Asked Mike Mytinger to check out our Oreck vacuum which has a problem. Mike told the story of the Dyson and how he got it fixed! Mike, you are our Godsend. What would we do without you?!

Upcoming Liturgical Events

Our parish feast day will fall on Saturday December 8. Even though it's a Saturday, it's still a holyday of obligation. (Only when it falls on a Monday is the obligation to attend Mass dispensed). There will be holyday Masses the evening before, Friday December 7, at 7pm, and on Saturday at 9am. The 4:30pm Mass can only count for the holyday *if one also attends Mass the next day (Sunday)*.

Old Business

The Parish Mission--A Family Reunion with Jesus—was well-attended and very well-received; there have been a number of favorable comments. Many thanks to everyone who worked on publicity, hospitality, child care, and every other aspect of the event. A survey has been put together about the mission which will be inserted into the bulletin this weekend.

Unleash the Gospel: This topic remains a major focus for the Archdiocese. Throughout the AOD last weekend, trained volunteers gave a special message after the homily, inviting parishioners to use their smartphones to sign-up to watch a short video over the next six days, and then reflect a couple of minutes on some reflection questions. (Booklets containing the script of the videos were available for those without internet access.) Priests are also asked to preach on *Unleash the Gospel* these next two weekends. At a special meeting for pastors or pastoral ministers on Friday November 16, the AOD will present ideas and materials to use in making Christmas “radically mission-oriented” and noticeably different for all the twice-a-year Catholics who attend Mass that day.

New Business

Christmas and Advent:

- We will have another short Advent this year: just over three weeks in length.
- The Rite of Acceptance (for the RCIA) will be at the 10am Mass on Sunday December 2; there are several catechumens this year.
- The Faith Formation confessions will be on Monday December 3; the school penance services will be on Thursday December 6.
- As always, our vicariate will have three communal penance services for Advent: Monday December 10 (7pm) at St. Mary in St. Clair; Thursday December 13 (7pm) at St. Mary Queen of Creation in New Baltimore; and Saturday December 15 (1pm) at Holy Trinity in Port Huron.
- Father Joe will have extra individual confession times (4:15pm and 7pm) on Thursday-Friday December 20-21, and on Christmas Eve from 2-3pm.
- There will not be an 8:30am Mass on Monday December 24; as always, the Christmas Eve Masses will be at 4:30pm, 6:30pm, and 11pm, and the Christmas Day Masses will be at 9am and 11am.
- Advent Tea: Thursday December 13,
- Christmas with Santa: Sunday December 16.
- Hall decorating can be done Saturday, December 15, after Advent Tea and in time for Christmas with Santa.

Church Attendance: Each year the Archdiocese asks us to take a headcount at Mass on two consecutive weekends. (Sheets were distributed). Our attendance is fairly consistent. As long as we have retired priests to assist us we can keep the four weekend Masses, but when the time comes that we no longer have their assistance we will cut back to three.

Open Forum

- The length of time the lights are on in the parking lot at night was questioned—it is often very dark when people are leaving the church or hall at night.
- Discussion about people at funerals going back to pews holding the host.
- People who want to take up the gifts at daily Mass should sit near the gift table and get up to do so at the appropriate time.
- A chair in handicap area needs reupholstering. Laura will check on cost.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2019, 6:30pm.

Meeting closed at 7:33pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kot, Secretary

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2018 CHRISTIAN SERVICE MEETING

OPENED WITH A PRAYER

ATTENDANCE: JOANN, SUE H., LAURA

APPROVED MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 9, 2018 MEETING

ROSARY MAKERS WILL MEET AFTER MASSES ON NOV. 11TH – WILL HAVE LESSONS ON MAKING ROSARIES

FUNERAL LUNCHESES – THREE LUNCHESES SINCE LAST MEETING

HANDCRAFTERS ARE STILL MEETING 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS AT NOON IN PARISH HALL

COFFEE/DONUT SUNDAY – NOV. 11TH – THIS IS VETERANS DAY. K OF C WILL SPONSOR DONUTS. DONATIONS WILL GO TO VETERAN CAUSES. LAND OF PEACE WILL ALSO BE PRESENT WITH ITEMS FOR SALE FROM THE HOLY LAND

DINNER/MOVIE – LAST MOVIE WAS “BOYS TOWN” – 70 PEOPLE PRESENT – DONATIONS OF \$543 WILL GO TOWARD THE HYMNALS. NEXT MOVIE IS DEC. 1ST

LIFE ISSUES COMMITTEE – ANOTHER 40 DAYS FOR LIFE WILL BE HELD DURING LENT NEXT YEAR

SENIOR GROUP – NOV. 8TH – PLAYED BINGO – HAD APPROX. 20 PEOPLE

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH HISTORICAL DEDICATION TOOK PLACE OCT. 14TH – WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND A BEAUTIFUL DEDICATION CEREMONY WITH ARCHBISHOP VIGNERON. RECEPTION AFTERWARD WAS WELL ATTENDED.

NEW BUSINESS:

MICHIGAN CHORALS CHAMBER GROUP WILL BE HERE AGAIN ON SAT. EVENING, DEC. 8TH. PAT AUSTIN ASKED CHRISTIAN SERVICE IF WE COULD PROVIDE A RECEPTION AFTER THE CONCERT

STARS OF CHRISTMAS HAS STARTED AND GOING STRONG. ARTICLES IN SPOTLIGHT WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. SORTING DATE IS TUESDAY, DEC. 4TH AT 9 AM IN PARISH HALL.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, JAN. 8TH

NEXT COFFEE/DONUT SUNDAY, JAN. 13TH