



Immaculate Conception Parish Council

April 2016 Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2015
 Meeting Time: 7:15 PM
 Meeting Location: Parish Hall

Member Name	Present	Absent	Position
Fr. Joe Esper parish@icatholic.org	X		Pastor
Deacon Ken Nowicki deaconken@icatholic.org	X		Evangelization Representative
Nicole Tomaszynski nicolembeutler@hotmail.com	X		Council Member, Chairperson (Term 2, Year 1)
Kathleen Grimm kagrimm@comcast.net		X	Council Member (Term 1, Year 3)
Bob Tharrett bobfarming@yahoo.com	X		Council Member, Vice-Chair (Term 2, Year 1)
Ted Stawiasz tstawiasz@aol.com	X		Council Member (Term 2, Year 1)
Steve Boutorwick scboutorwick@yahoo.com	X		Council Member (Term 1, Year 3)
Dawn Sikowski dmsikowski@hotmail.com		X	Council Member (Term 1, Year 3)
Mary Kot skippykot@yahoo.com	X		Worship Representative
JoAnn Augustine jaugustine30@comcast.net	X		Christian Service Rep.
James Haase	X		Long Term Planning Rep.

Meeting opened with a prayer at 7:29 pm.

Minutes of the March, 2016 meeting were approved with no changes.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Our parish mission, given by Fr. Ben Luedtke on March 6-9, was very well received; there were anywhere from 250 to over 300 persons in attendance each evening (including some visitors from other parishes), and there were many confessions. Fr. Luedtke made a point of spending time with the school students and was very impressed with them. The mission served as a nice preparation for Holy Week, and people are still talking about it.
- The following weekend, March 12-13, the Archbishop's taped homily on Synod '16 was shown at all the Masses. As you've heard, each parish will be holding one or more dialogue sessions, allowing parishioners to give feedback on certain issues as part of the preparation for the Synod. We will hold two such meetings: the evening of Wednesday May 18 (6:30pm) and the morning of Saturday May 21. All members of the parish council are invited to attend one of these sessions.
- The Amazing Parishes Conference will be held in Detroit in two weeks (the first time it's ever been offered anywhere other than Denver); we will have four persons from the parish, plus myself attending.
- The school's spring musical, "The Lion King" will be held on May 4-5 (Wednesday-Thursday) at Algonquin Middle School (7 pm).
- The good news regarding our CSA is that we once again reached our target from last year, finally exceeding it about five weeks ago – over \$82,000 (our target being \$76,288). The bad news is that our CSA for this coming year has gone up by 13% -- to a total of \$86,054 (more than we've ever raised). The Archbishop's taped CSA homily will be shown on the weekend of April 30 – May 1.
- Deacon David Tomaszynski will be ordained a priest at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit on Saturday May 14, with his first Mass here at I.C. the following day. (He'll be staying here at the rectory from May 5-17, until he returns to Rome to complete his studies.)

FINANCE COUNCIL – No minutes – no report.



Immaculate Conception Parish Council

April 2016 Minutes

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Worship Commission Fr. Joe and Mary Kot reported.

- The Holy Week and Easter liturgies were very prayerful, and fairly-well attended; the music in particular was outstanding. Six persons receive the Easter sacraments at the Easter Vigil.
- There were about 60 people at Sunday's Divine Mercy prayer service.
- Bishop Reiss will be here for Confirmation on Thursday April 14.
- The next Mass of Reparation will be Monday April 18.
- This year, instead of having two First Communion Masses, we will have only one (due to smaller numbers). This will take place on Saturday May 7 at 10:30 am (instead of two Masses at 9:30 am and 11:30 am).
- Our May Crowning ceremony will take place following the 10 am Mass on Sunday May 8.

Christian Service Commission – JoAnn Augustine reported – minutes attached.

- Nine members were at the last meeting.
- Over the last month 17 cards were sent from the greeting card ministry and two funeral lunches were held.
- The Handcrafters are looking for a replacement to head up the program.
- The next Coffee and Donuts will be held April 24, 2016.
- Movie & Dinner night will be April 16, 2016 – the movie will be "Mother Theresa."
- 19 Layettes were donated to the St. Joseph Layette program.
- The blood pressure checks during the Lenten Fish Dinners went well.
- Christian Service will be handling the reception(s) for Fr. David Tomaszynski's 1st Masses.

Education Commission/SAC – No minutes – no report.

Long Term Planning – Minutes attached – James Haase reported.

- The refinishing of the front doors of the church is waiting on information about replacing the threshold at the foot of the doors. The current stone threshold is severely worn.
- Gym Update – looking at price quotes for A/C units (not an immediate need).
- The moisture issue in the gym continues to improve with the use of the fans.
- 80 of the 90 projected sound panels have been installed in the gym and are having a very positive impact on the sound in the gym.
- We are looking at replacing the 400watt light fixtures with 90watt LED fixtures in the gym – These should pay for themselves in a relatively short amount of time.
- Handicapped parking will be added near the school and the grotto.
- Some shrubs are to be removed from near the parish office. (This may be a possible community service project for some students.)
- We are looking at purchasing Cemetery management software to help automate and catalog all the handwritten notes from over the years.
- The school is looking at the possibility of replacing and relocating some of the playground equipment.
- In the rectory, the non-functioning bathroom will be looked at to possibly fix it, or remove it entirely if it is too far gone.



Immaculate Conception Parish Council

April 2016 Minutes

- Temporary speed bumps may be installed in the school drive during the summer months. As they are temporary, they may be removed so they do not interfere with snow plowing during the winter months.
- A question came up about the storm drain between the grotto and the maintenance garage; It is very slow to drain. Standing water is an issue during festival and at other times.

Stewardship Commission – No minutes – no report.

Vicariate Pastoral Council (VPC) – No minutes – no report.

Evangelization – Amy O’Gara reported.

- Flyers for the Catholic Women’s Conference “Unlock the Treasures of Jesus Christ Within” and the “Come Encounter Christ” events were handed out.
- The I.C. Evangelization committee provided the hospitality for the parish mission and all seemed to go well.
- The I.C. Evangelization group is looking at the possibility of hosting a community coffee house in the parish hall. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.
- The Evangelization Committee is working together with the Little Way Ladies Society on a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. We will be renting a bus for this event and we hope to recoup the cost by filling the bus. There will also be a stop in Greektown for lunch.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

OPEN FORUM:

- Michael Shmina made a presentation to parish council that working with Macomb Right to Life we will be displaying several thousand white crosses along M-29 to represent the victims of abortion. This will take place Memorial Day weekend through June 5, 2016. He is looking for the entire I.C. community to participate; school children, families, K of C, etc. A small committee was formed to help with this effort.

Meeting closed with a prayer at 8:45pm.

Next Meeting: June 7, 2016 following the 6:30 PM Mass

Minutes Respectfully Submitted: Amy O’Gara

WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2016

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM with prayer.

Present: Fr. Joe Esper, Deacon Ken Nowicki, Pat Austin, Rene Meldrum, Jeff Wooton, Marie Vardon, Sandy Kott, Tina Kovalcik, Mary Kot.

Absent: Mike Mytinger, Carole Gafa, Eliana Hogarth.

Minutes of January 14, 2016 approved by consensus.

Fr. Joe's Report

- We express our condolences to Deacon Ken on the passing of his sister.
- Back on February 1 there was a special gathering for Catholic Schools Week: all the elementary students and teachers from our vicariate schools gathered at Holy Cross Church for Mass, and then spent the day at Cardinal Mooney High School. The event was very well-received, and the plan is to repeat it next year.
- Our parish mission was held March 6-9, conducted by Fr. Ben Luedtke. It was very popular and well-attended, with anywhere from 250-300 people each night.
- The parishioner who last year donated money to have a special catered breakfast to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation did so again this year; this celebration was held on Monday, April 4 (as March 25 fell during Holy Week).
- Bishop Reiss was here on Thursday, April 14 to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to 46 young people.
- First Communions will take place on Saturday, May 7. Because there are fewer First Communicants than in past years, we will have only one Mass, at 10:30 AM (as opposed to the normal two Masses at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM).
- This weekend Archbishop Vigneron's taped homily for the CSA will be played at all the Masses. Our parish quota is \$85,197—almost \$9000 higher than last year.
- On the weekend of May 7-8, there will be a blessing for mothers at all the Masses.
- Our parish May Crowning ceremony will be immediately after the 10 AM Mass that weekend (with the school's ceremony on Friday, May 13).
- You are invited to **wear red** (in honor of the Holy Spirit) on Pentecost Sunday—May 14-15.
- The next Mass of Reparation will be Monday, May 16.
- The 8th grade graduation Mass will be Monday, June 6 at 6:30 PM; the school's Awards Mass will be Friday, June 10.
- Our Mass for graduating high school seniors will be at 10AM on Sunday, June 12.
- The annual mission appeal will be on the weekend of June 18-19, with a priest from the Glenmary Home Missions speaking at all the Masses.
- One of the recommendations from the limited-scope audit conducted by the Archdiocese earlier this year is that we have a special safe in the sacristy just for collections; we are looking into this possibility.
- The parish is using "ministry scheduling" software; not only does it schedule lectors and Eucharistic ministers, but it also sends out reminder e-mails.

- The members of all parish groups—including the Worship Commission—are invited to attend one of the dialogue gatherings in preparation for Synod '16. We will be hosting two such meetings: Wed. May 18 (6:30pm) and Sat. May 21 (9am), both in the parish hall.
- As a result of attending the Amazing Parish Conference last weekend, our parish leadership team identified certain priorities, one of those being an emphasis on hospitality prior to, during, and after Mass. This is something the Worship Commission is asked to discuss.

Discussion followed with these comments and suggestions:

- Regarding the last item in Father's report, this is the first time the conference was held in this location; almost 1000 people attended.
- Suggestion to extend hand and introduce ourselves to others around us at beginning of Mass.
- Holding door open for children leaving to attend Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and ushers could be greeters.
- Deacon Ken will check on available literature about hospitality points and ideas for ushers and others.
- Fr. Joe will also put together a list of ideas and suggestions for a future issue of the bulletin.
- Perhaps another training session for lectors would be helpful with *emphasis* on speaking more slowly, louder, and into the microphone.
- There is so little available space in the sacristy safe but perhaps the refrigerator in the sacristy could be lifted and a small safe placed beneath the refrigerator to house the collections.

Reports & Updates

Music: Choirs preparing for Pentecost. Remarks were made about the beauty of the music during Lent and Easter.

Art & Environment: Flowers and decorations for Easter were beautiful. Preparations under way for First Communion, May Crownings, Pentecost, school graduations, etc., with appropriate color combinations and appointments throughout the church. Father requested arrangements be placed in front of the ambo, Paschal candle, and front of altar (3 areas); for Corpus Christi, May 29, grapes, wheat, bread, and pitcher of wine would be nice additions.

Liturgical Ministries: It was mentioned that some of the altar servers are inattentive and irreverent during Mass and that perhaps a small booklet or prayer card with Mass parts could serve as a way of focusing their attention properly.

Sacristans: Anne Graber would like to step down from this ministry, but Marie is back.

Ushers: No report; no representation.

Altar Linens: All is going well.

Loving Hands: Great group of ladies. Eighth graders doing fine job of tidying the church after Children's Masses. Discussion about meeting the deep cleaning needs of the parish hall—Sandy and Mary will arrange a meeting with Bob Debusschere to address this issue. We now have three vacuum cleaners, all working well.

Upcoming Liturgical Events

Covered in Father's report.

Pentecost Vigil Saturday, May 14, 7-8:30 pm. Usually poorly attended.

People need to pray more; pray rosary before Mass, First Communion, and Confirmation. After Confirmation in April the loud talking in church was appalling and embarrassing in Bishop Reiss' presence.

Old Business

Review of Lent and Holy Week: No recessional hymn after Mass and leaving the church in quiet worked well.

Good Friday schedule worked well, but would like to see more people attend the Tenabrae service which is so moving and beautiful.

A good number of white books were left over—next year we should order fewer books accordingly.

New Business

David Tomaszewski will be staying at the rectory and be ordained on Saturday May 14.

He will be saying his first Masses of Thanksgiving here at IC at 8:00 am (for family mainly) and at 12:00 noon. Fr. Joe would like to concelebrate with "Father David" at one of the two Masses. There will be receptions after both Masses in the parish hall.

Items for Future Discussion and Open Forum

Deacon Ken reviewed the information that was distributed to us.

There was interest in the outing to the Holy Doors at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Saturday, August 6, 2016.

Wednesday, September 28 is "Meet Me At The Pole Day". It would be nice if we could coordinate several groups to participate.

Tina presented a lantern that will be used by the children for the Children's Liturgy of the Word as Christ is The Light of the World.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 22, 2016.

Meeting closed at 8:15 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kot