

Immaculate Conception Parish, Ira Township, MI



Parish Council — January 2018 Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Meeting Time 7:17 PM

Meeting Location: Parish Hall

Member Name	Present	Absent	Position
Fr. Joe Esper parish@icatholic.org	X		Pastor
Deacon Ken Nowicki kknowickid@sbcglobal.net		X	Deacon, Evangelization Representative
Nicole Tomaszewski nicolemboutler@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 (Term 2, Year 1)
Ted Stawiasz tstawiasz@aol.com	X		Council Member, Vice Chair (Term 2, Year 1)
Pat McGrath		X	Council Member (Term 1, Year 1)
Mary Kot skippykot@yahoo.com		X	Worship Representative
Laura Somogy guardianangelspray4us@gmail.com	X		Education Committee/Evangelization Committee
JoAnn Augustine jaugustine30@comcast.net		X	Christian Service Rep.
Long Term Planning		X	Long Term Planning Rep.
Deacon Larry Pazkowski deaconlarry@icatholic.org		X	Deacon

Meeting opened with a prayer at 7:20 pm.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved with no changes.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- The Christmas collection so far comes to \$71,804.
- School resumes tomorrow, and Faith Formation resumes next Monday.
- As mentioned last month, our school – like every other Catholic school in the Archdiocese – is undergoing a strategic planning process. A committee has been formed and will be attending an orientation meeting conducted by the AOD next week. This process will take place over the next few months and is supposed to be completed by the summer.
- Catholic Schools Week will take place, as always, at the end of January; it will begin with a vicariate schools Mass at Holy Cross Church on Monday January 29, followed by an “educational field day” and carnival at Cardinal Mooney High School. This is the third year for this event, which is unique to our vicariate.
- As mentioned in the bulletin, and in the vicariate newsletter, all our parishes and schools have a free trial subscription to *Formed*, a digital resource offering many possibilities for adult education, sacramental preparation, faith formation and online entertainment for families and individuals, including e- books and movies. The level of use or interest between now and mid-February will help determine whether it’s worth it for us to take out a parish subscription.
- The new sound system, paid for by the PTC, has been installed in the gym; it worked very well during its inaugural use at the school’s Christmas program last month.



- Deacon Ken and Deacon Larry will be sharing a small office in the parish office building (though for now, Deacon Ken is away until after Easter). This office has been repainted, and new carpeting has been installed; money from the loose change collection for several weeks will help defray the cost.
- Last fall the Long-Term Planning Committee met with an expert in church security and arranged for an “active shooter” training program to be offered here for some of our parish staff members and ushers; it’s designed to help guard against or respond to potential violence during a weekend Mass. This training will be held on Friday-Saturday January 12-13. In the meantime, we hired Clay Township to provide a police presence during the holiday Masses, just as a precaution (for we hadn’t received any specific threats); there were no incidents of any sort.
- The Youth Group will be going to Washington D.C. on Thursday January 18 for the annual Right to Life March; they’ll also be taking part in the annual Rainbow youth conference in Detroit on the weekend of January 27-28.
- Bishop Fisher will be residing at the school Mass on Friday January 19.
- The retreat for the Confirmation candidates will be held on Sunday January 28; the candidates will attend the 10am Mass that day as a group.
- First Reconciliation will take place on Thursday February 1.
- I express my thanks to everyone who sent me a card or gift over the holidays, and to everyone who expressed condolences over the death of my cousin. Father Tom Esper, whose funeral was held at St. Edward Church this morning.

FINANCE COUNCIL – No minutes – Fr. Joe reported.

- Last meeting consisted of talking in general about finances, reviewing balance sheets. We are doing well financially.
- Finance Council addressed a question about the parish financial statement, the result was the numbers were accurate.
- The business manager is reviewing numbers for money borrowed from the cemetery to parish, we owe the cemetery \$51,257.00. We plan on paying \$450 per month over the next 9 years to cover this amount. If we finish a fiscal year in the black, we can take the overage and pay some of this amount back. The schedule has us paid in full by 2027 (hopefully we will pay it off early).
- Many items are being reviewed to be sure all information is accurate.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Worship Commission – Fr. Joe reported.

- Gratitude to all musicians, decorators, those who distributed our gift book, and everyone who had a hand in preparation for Christmas – Thank you!
- Attendance at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses was lower than usual, due to the weather. Even so, enough persons were present to make it clear that we do need five separate Masses for the feast.
- As you know, this Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany. Mass will begin with the traditional blessing of chalk, which can be used to mark the doorposts of one’s home (the manner of which will be described in my bulletin column). Also, the annual Epiphany concert will be held at 2:30pm, followed by a social in the parish hall.
- The next Mass of Reparation will be Monday January 15.

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Parish Council — January 2018 Minutes



Christian Service Commission - No report – November minutes provided.

Education Commission/SAC – No report.

Long Term Planning – No report.

Stewardship Commission – No report.

Parish Life – No meeting until January.

Vicariate Pastoral Council (VPC) – Fr. Joe reported.

- Next meeting is January 17, 2018.

Evangelization – No report – December minutes provided.

NEW BUSINESS: Information went home to all parents. Letter to parents, IOWA assessments, class by class were distributed. Virtually without exception our students are above grade level, especially at the Jr. High level. This speaks wonderfully of our students, support from our parents, and above all from our faculty and staff. The longer the students are at our school, the more they surpass the national norms.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OPEN FORUM: None

Meeting closed with a prayer at 7:45 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 2017

Minutes Respectfully Submitted: Amy O’Gara



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Ira Township, MI

Group Name: Education Commission

Meeting Date: January 23, 2018

Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: I.C. School Library

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Chair	Tina Kovalcik	X		
Vice Chair				
Secretary	Diane Vigneron	X		
Member	Pat Phelan	X		
	Diane Polcyn	X		
	Laura Somogy	X		
	Larry Ricard		X	
	Bryant Sebastian	X		
	Anna Vigneron			X
	Claire Toupin			X

Meeting opened with a prayer at: 5:10 p.m.

Minutes approved: yes

Old Business: Discussion regarding use of the Formed program. The cost is \$1700 with a discount of \$1604 available. Questions were asked regarding if their will be individual log-ins or only a parish wide log-in. There is a need for a marketing administrator. A decision will be made by February 16 and it will be based on feedback. It was noted that St. Mary's did not renew their subscription. Further discussion and recommendations will take place at the next Education Commission meeting which will be combined with Parish Life.

New Business: Discussion on changing Faith Formation times to best serve the needs of the students who often have conflicts on Monday evenings. Various times, days, and possibilities were discussed. Looking at ways to get feedback from the parents as to what would best meet their needs. Possibly showing the program "Passing on the Faith".

School Report

- Strategic planning to start on January 10.
- Principal and PTC are reviewing account balances to fund newer computers for the school. Research as to type of operating system and quotes has not started yet.



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- **Catholic Schools Week is the week of January 29. Students will be bused to Cardinal Mooney on the 29th for a vicariate activity. Tuesday will be a whole school rosary, and a pep rally will be on Friday.**
- **A Geography Bee was held for 5th - 8th graders on Jan. 18th**
- **Michigan Catholic Conference visit (required per insurance)- the school was cited for the use of power strips in the teacher's lounge. The violation has been corrected.**
- **Bishop Fisher presided at the school mass on January 19.**
- **The school is booking A.L.I.C.E., an active shooter/response program with a proposed date of Monday, February 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. All school personal are invited.**
- **School front entrance: the cement is sinking in front of the door forming a holding area for water.**

Faith Formation

- **Parish Life committee met on Jan. 9. Action items in Unleash the Gospel and the FORMED program were reviewed.**
- **Bible Study - "Mary, a Biblical Walk with the Blesses Mother" began on Jan. 10. 56 people are registered.**
- **DRE meeting on Jan. 18. Margo Eurick gave an impressive presentation on FORMED.**
- **Blue Water DRE's hosted a catechist's retreat on Saturday, Jan. 27. Michael King from the AOD facilitated. Topic: Unleash the Gospel.**
- **First Penance pot luck was Jan. 21**
- **Grief Recovery and Support began on Jan. 23 through Feb. 27 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Mickey Troutman is the facilitator.**
- **Profession of faith for two school students on Jan. 26 at the 8:30 a.m. mass**
- **8th grade Confirmation retreat on Jan. 29 following the 10 a.m. mass. Mary Lee Becker facilitated.**
- **First Penance and Reconciliation - Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in church.**
- **Older sacramental students (5) will receive First Holy Communion on Feb. 4 at the noon mass.**
- **Lenton flyer should go out by Feb. 5. Communal penance will be Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at St. Augustine, Saturday, March 17 at 1 p.m. at Our Lady on the River, and Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Port Huron**
- **RCIA - Since there are no catechumens this year, the dismissal at mass will be omitted until at least Lent.**

Youth Ministry SHINE

EDGE (Middle School Youth Ministry) - EDGE is not meeting at this time.

Divine Mercy Centicle

- **January 7th assisted with the Epiphany party**
- **February 7 hosting an appreciation breakfast for parents in celebration of Catholic Schools Week in the Parish Hall after morning mass**
- **Sunday, February 18th hosting a soup and bread lunch with a documentary on St. Anthony of Padua in the Parish Hall after the noon mass.**



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- Sunday, March 11 hosting a soup and bread lunch and showing the conversion story of Fr. Donald Calloway (Marian's of the Immaculate Conception) following the noon mass in the Parish Hall.
- Sunday, April 8 for the Feast of the Divine Mercy will be working with the Evangelization Committee to help host a Polish Pot-Luck after the Divine Mercy Prayer Service.
- Looking to re-book the day trip to Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio in either late April or early May
- Continuing the journey of reading and discussing the Diary of St. Faustina, along with the corresponding catechism and scripture and praying for the staff and heads of commissions and committees and their members along with those requests made on Grace Line and the personal intentions of each other.

Finance Report: None

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, Feb. 13

Next Meeting Time: 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Location: I.C. School Library

Minutes prepared by: Diane Vigneron

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 16, 2018

(Meetings are held in the Parish Hall after the 6:30 PM mass from September thru June on the third Tuesday of the month.)

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Committee Chair:	Randy Proctor	X		
Secretary:	Michael Nagrant	X		
Evangelization Liaison:	Deacon Ken Nowicki		X	
Evangelization Liaison:	Deacon Larry Paczkowski		X	
Members:	Kathleen Grimm		X	
	Tina Kovalcik		X	
	Barbara Nagrant	X		
	Amy O"Gara		X	
	John O'Gara	X		
	Jim Polcyn		X	
	Diane Polcyn	X		
	Tammie Thelen	X		
	Laura Somogy	X		
	Herman Hook		X	
	Carol Gawel	X		
	Eliana Hogarth		X	
	Alex Somogy	X		

Previous meeting minutes: We reviewed and accepted the minutes.

Old Business:

- Deacon Ken reported that the Vicariate has negotiated a reduced price for the *Formed* program at \$1604. The free access continues thru Feb 16th.
- We will be hosting another Coffee House event on Saturday, Feb 10th From 7PM to 9PM. A sign up sheet will be going out soon.
- The Devine Mercy Sunday Pot Luck Polish Dinner after the 3PM service on Sunday, April 8th is now confirmed. We will need to formulate a process to call inactive parishioners and invite them.
- There will be a major Parish Retreat next year hosted by Deacon Ralph Poyo. The scheduled dates for this event is Sept 22-26, 2018. This event will require some serious commitment from our team for it to be successful, so please put those dates on your calendar.

- There is a drive to collect \$13 per person for any folks who would like to donate toward hygienic packets that the Sacred Heart Rehab Center in Richmond provide to those in need. Please consider donating to this fund. Details are in the "Spotlight".
- A seminar on Divorce is now being planned by Tina and her committee. More to follow on this.

New Business:

- Our next Dinner and a Movie will be on Saturday, February 3rd after the 4:30 PM Mass. The movie is called "Fireproof" and the menu for the evening is a Roast Beef Dinner with beverages and popcorn included. As this is a catered event, you must RSVP before Friday, January 26th if you wish to attend. Reserve by calling the Parish Office at 586-725-3051 or Laura at 810-334-5101. Donations for Door Prizes will be gladly accepted.
- The Little Way Ladies Society is hosting a Cooking Demonstration in the Parish Hall on Thursday, Feb 1st at 6:30 PM. The demonstration will be conducted by Chef Mark of Little Camille's in New Baltimore. Chef Mark will teach us how to make the foods, as well as provide recipes for them. The menu will consist of three courses with wine pairings: Winter Fritter with sauce (Veggie pancake), Chicken Ragu over egg pasta, and Chocolate mousse dessert. Tickets are \$15 per person. There will only be 60 tickets sold. They can be purchased at the Parish Office or by calling the office at 586-725-3051 to reserve them. All tickets must be purchased before Friday, January 26th to allow for proper planning. We will be setting up that evening starting at 5PM. A sign up sheet will be going out soon.
- Alex and Laura proposed taking advantage of the next Coffee & Doughnut Sunday on Feb 11 to assist attendees in installing Formed, Laudate, and other Catholic Apps they may wish onto their phones and tablets. This event will be called: "Are you Apostolic?" We will also have Catholic cartoons from Formed going on our TV monitors to entertain the children while their parents work with us. A sign up sheet will be going out soon.
- The Fish Fry Dinners for lent will be starting on Friday, Feb 23rd and will occur weekly thru March 23rd. A sign up sheet for staffing the evangelization table will be going out soon.
- Carol Gawel brought in an example from another Parish to show us how we can help send out Christmas cards to the parish shut-ins next December. We would install a drop box in the Church so that parishioners can submit address information of shut-ins that they know. We would then publish those addresses in the "Spotlight" so that others can know who and how they might want to send cards to them.

Action Items:

- **Deacon Larry and Deacon Ken** were in discussion about creating a lead evangelization team that will facilitate the calling of inactive Parish members to inform them of the Devine Mercy Sunday events, as well as our upcoming parish retreat. Deacon Larry will report out on this at the next meeting so we can begin planning for these events.

- We need to develop the evangelization committee budget proposal and submit it before the end of February. **Mike Nagrant** will bring in a draft copy to the February meeting for Discussion.
- **Mike and Randy** need to take inventory of the evangelization supplies and order replacement materials in time to get them before the Coffee House on Feb 10.
- **Mike** will order 100 Saint Anthony medals for Laura for an upcoming event of hers.
- **Mike** will submit sign up sheets, announcements, and bulletin ads as necessary for the Cooking Demo, "App-ostolic event, Coffee House, and "Dinner & A Movie" events
- **Alex Somogy** will set up Formed cartoons on the TV Monitors for the "Are You App-ostolic?" event on Feb 11th.
- **John O'Gara** to confirm to **Mike** if the set up for the Coffee House will occur on that date or the Friday before. Then **Mike** will send out the sign up sheet.

Financial Report for Account #5340 (Evangelization Committee Budget):

- Initial budget amount was \$5920
- Total expenditures to date were \$1055
- Balance available is \$4865

The meeting ended at 8:00 PM with prayer.

The next meeting is planned for February 20, 2018 in the Parish Hall.

Minutes were prepared by Michael Nagrant. mnagrant@comcast.net

Immaculate Conception Finance Council Minutes
December 12, 2017

1. Opening Prayer– Father Joe opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:15 p.m.
2. Attendance: Father Joe, Gordon Birgbauer, Robb Gafa, Paul Sattler, Theresa Austin, Bob Tharrett , Bob Clancy, Jean Corbat, Don Robinson, Therese Wolak
3. The School Mission Statement:
 - a. Immaculate Conception School promotes (a/an) **Caring Catholic community, Home for the active mind, Respectful, responsible citizens for a global society, Individual love for life-long learning, Strong value-based academic curriculum, Trust in the Word of God**
4. Don Robinson motioned to approve the minutes distributed at the last meeting. Motion passed.
5. The foundation repairs on the church were completed on December 1st. The supports had to go down 75 feet, significantly deeper than initial estimates. The measurements Jim Haase took after the repair are almost ideal. The total bill for the project is \$30,828 (including the \$1,100 discount). We are pleased and grateful that the problem is corrected. There is no basis for an insurance claim.
6. A draft version of the proposed letter to parishioners was reviewed with suggested changes recommended. The intent is the letter be an insert in a future bulletin issue – sometime after Christmas. Jean Corbat will incorporate the changes and send to Father Joe and Gordon for Father's review. Finance and Parish Council roles will be listed on the reverse side. Bob Clancy motioned that Finance Council accept the letter with any changes that Father may include. Theresa Austin seconded and motion passed.
7. After extensive discussion on parishioners' concerns, Jean Corbat will compose a response for review.
8. November's Income Statement and Balance Sheet were distributed.
9. Father shared that the Catholic Foundation of Michigan was established last year so parishes had an option to set up endowment funds. Father will schedule possible dates for their representative to meet and discuss with Finance Council.
10. The feasibility study for a Catholic Education Campaign is ongoing. Our Blue Water Vicariate recommends that we be exempted from a possible campaign because we have a successful, existing program. The AOD representative will include this in his report.
11. After reviewing the Bid process documents, Don Robinson recommended that thresholds be raised to be in line with current credit card limits. This will be discussed further at the January meeting.
12. Next meeting date – Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. (after Mass)
13. Closing prayer at 9:00 p.m.



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday January 16, 2018 –Un-Approved**

Attendees: ☐ Father Joe Esper Jim Haase Ron Vigneron ☐ Jim Mattina
☐ Bob DeBusschere Jeff Wooten ☐ Dennis Cyr Robert Clancy
☐ Gordon Birgbauer

Call to Order / Opening Prayer

Meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm
Fr. Joe led the group in an opening prayer
School Mission Statement was read by all
Meeting minutes from the November 28, 2017 where reviewed & approved with corrections

Church Repair Update:

- Interior & Exterior wall repair:
 - Bob D. reported the repair to the inside wall is approx. 90% completed.
 - Bob D. will match the color & finish painting the repaired area.
 - The exterior work will have to be done by an outside contractor. This work should be finished in the spring.
 - Additional work maybe required on the Rectory at the same time.

Gymnasium Update:

- Bob D. reported the HVAC units need adjustments. Bob D. will contact vendor.
- LED Light change out is on hold, Prices on units are starting to drop.
- Committee recommended trying a section of wall to foam fill brick cavities. Jim H. to contact the vendor once an area is selected.

Parking Lot Water Drainage:

- No update.

Rectory:

- Bob D. looked at siding around the building but piece in questions was missing before it could be secured.

LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 16, 2018 –Un-Approved page 2

Open discussion:

- LTPC & Finance Council will look into replacing the Lower Elementary doors after this year's festival.
- Bob D. suggested adding a corner tone into the school brick work. Further discussion is needed.
- Father Joe will contact AOD to discuss Church Security Policies.
- In the rectory basement storage area is old Vestments which are being evaluated for repair & donation to a needy parish. Further discussion is needed after the evaluation

Parish Council Representative:

Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday February 6, 2018 after 6:30 Mass

LTPC Representative: Jeff Wooten / Jim Haase / Ron Vigneron & Robert Clancy

Next Meeting: February 20, 2018 after 6:30 Mass

Meeting Adjourn and Closing Prayer at 8:05 pm



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Ira Township, MI

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Meeting Date: January 25, 2018

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Meeting Location: Parish Hall

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Chair	Fr. Joe Esper	X		
Vice Chair				
Secretary	Mary Kot	X		
Members	Pat Austin	X		
	Laura Somogy	X		
	Sandy Kott	X		
	Paul Sattler	X		
	Mike Mytinger	X		
	Eliana Hogarth	X		
	Deacon Ken Nowicki		X	
	Cindy Janisse		X	
	Rene Meldrum		X	
	Carol Gafa			X
	Jeff Wooten			X

Meeting opened with a prayer at: 6:30pm

Minutes approved: November 16, 2017 approved by consensus.

Fr. Joe's Report:

- As you heard previously, the church foundation was successfully repaired (on Thursday-Friday November 30-December 1), with a minimum of inconvenience or disruption. However, instead of digging down only 35' as expected it was necessary to install the helical spheres at a depth of 75'—adding to the total cost of the project (\$30,828, instead of the original quote of \$22,100).
- Last Friday Bishop Robert Fisher, our regional bishop, presided at the school Mass, and afterwards visited the school. At the end of Mass the students were incredibly quiet and reverent while leaving church while Eucharistic Adoration was underway.
- At this Friday's school Mass, there will be two Professions of Faith—a boy and a girl, each in 2nd grade, who were baptized in a different religion but who now wish to become Catholic, so as to make First Communion with their class in May.
- The 8th grade Confirmation retreat will be taking place this Sunday, with all the candidates attending the 10am Mass.
- At some of the Masses this weekend, there will be student lectors as part of the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, which begins on Sunday.
- Fr. Blondell will preside at the 8:30am Mass next Monday, allowing me to concelebrate the 9am vicariate Catholic schools Mass at Holy Cross Church in Marine City.
- First Reconciliation will take place one week from now, on Thursday February 1 at 6:30pm. There will be about 32 children receiving the sacrament.
- Some of the Boy Scouts will be in attendance at the 10am Mass on Sunday February 11.



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- Also, February 11 is the World Day of the Sick. Archbishop Vigneron will preside at a special Mass for the sick and their caregivers—11am at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. (I'll publicize this in the bulletin.)
- Our next Mass of Reparation will be Monday February 19 at 7pm.
- Bill and Carole Gilmore donated several small quilts, which are being kept in the handicapped section of church, for the use of anyone sitting in that section.
- Carole Gilmore and Mary Kot have been going through many old vestments which had been kept in a cold, dusty closet in the rectory basement. They're sorting through them, laundering or taking some of them to the cleaners. We'll keep some and try to give away others; a former upstairs bathroom in the rectory is being converted into a more suitable storage closet than the one in the basement.
- As you've heard, our parish has a free trial subscription until February 16 to *FORMED*, the on-line Catholic resource. We hope everyone has the opportunity to check it out and see what's available.
- You've probably also heard about the school strategic planning process, which the AOD is requiring all Catholic schools to undertake. (This doesn't directly pertain to the Worship Commission, but we want everyone in the parish to be informed.) Our planning committee has begun meeting regularly to study *Unleash the Gospel*, conduct a SWOT analysis, and review the NCEA school standards. We'll also receive survey results and demographic data to analyze, with the goal of putting together our school's five-year strategic plan by this summer.
- Three candidates for full communion into Catholic faith will be at the 9:00am Mass this Saturday, January 27, with one of the persons received into First Communion and Confirmation.

Reports & Updates

Music: The Michigan Chamber Chorale performed a concert here at IC on Saturday, December 9 which was very nice. Our part of the free will offering which we received from the Choir Fest concert held at St. Catherine's November 12th was \$220.

Christmas went fairly well, we had some brass instruments to enhance the music. Epiphany Concert was fairly well attended; possibly next year's concert will be held in the hall instead of the church. Choirs are beginning practice for Lent and Easter; asking the brass section to come back for Easter and Pentecost.

Art & Environment: No Report; no representation. Church was decorated nicely for the Christmas season. Crown of stars on Virgin Mary's head. No Christmas decorations or appointments in the parish hall. Discussion about when decorations are liturgically correct to go up.

Liturgical Ministries: No report.

Sacristans: No report.

Ushers: We have one new usher. The ad in the bulletin did not produce much. Doing on-line scheduling. While setting up the last meeting for ushers, some of them had suggestions regarding changes. It is up to Fr. Joe to give the ushers new directions. Asked where logo can be obtained for jacket for new usher George Grobbel.

Altar Cloths: No report.

Loving Hands: Nice article in church bulletin for recruits. but no response. One of our vacuum cleaners needs attention; Mike Mytinger will work on repairing it.

Upcoming Liturgical Events

Ash Wednesday: Masses at 9:00am and 7:00pm. Two services at 7:00am and 12 noon.

Fridays of Lent: Eucharistic Adoration from after Mass until 6:30pm Benediction, followed by

Stations of Cross at 7:00pm.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Ira Township, MI

Old Business:

Advent and Christmas Review: Attendance was down a little but all five Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are needed. Music was very nice.

New Business:

Church Security: Police officer from Clay Township was present at all Masses for Christmas and New Year's.

Security Workshop was held for 4 hours on Friday, January 12 and 6 hours on Saturday January 13 with about 18 ushers taking part. This particular company that conducted the workshop offers 33 different courses and four step presentations. Father Joe explained some of the ideas that were presented about how to deal with problems. AOD has an ad hoc security committee. We must be sure that whatever policy we put together will be correct. Most attacks are concentrated on Baptist, Non-Denominational, and Catholic Churches. St. Clair County also has security training—we will be looking into that. The above workshop cost \$1100 and was very beneficial.

Sunday Mass Times: Our church holds about 380 people. As long as we have the two visiting priests, Fr. Gonyeau and Fr. Blondell, no changes need to be made as to Mass times. Fr. Joe described the different scenarios of coordinating our Mass schedule with that of St. Mary's, New Baltimore, and other neighboring Catholic churches if and when we no longer have the assistance of our retired priests and have to eliminate one of our weekend Masses.

Finance Report: None.

Meeting Closed: Meeting closed at 7:52 pm with prayer.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018

Next Meeting Time: 6:30 pm

Next Meeting Location: Parish Hall

Minutes prepared by: Mary Kot, Secretary