

St. Raphael Parish Council Meeting  
May 16, 2020

Meeting opened at 2:30 pm via Zoom conference

Present: Fr. Ignatius, Karen, Newman, Alli, Julia, Brian, Elena

April minutes were approved as submitted.

Father read from an article: "Church, don't let coronavirus divide you." Gratitude was expressed for Kristi who has made several cloth reusable masks and also purchased some disposable masks to be used in the church as needed.

Karen provided the financial update:

Kristi purchased a box of disposable masks for \$65 and the council approved reimbursement for this purchase. Financially we are running slightly behind this month. A couple of April's pledge checks were deposited in May and this partially accounts for the discrepancy. The council agreed to continue monitoring this month to month.

The council agreed that Father should begin attaching the monthly Parish Council meeting minutes to the weekly bulletin email the week following each meeting. The draft minutes will be distributed to the council the Monday after each meeting and PC members will approve the minutes by Friday after the meeting.

The council discussed COVID-19 and steps we are taking to safely re-open the church. Currently there are Sign-Up Genius surveys being used for those who want to attend services to sign-up online. We discussed how best to allow parishioners who do not use/have access to the internet to attend. Father will ask anyone he knows that does not use the internet to call him directly to sign up to attend services.

There is hand sanitizer placed near the entrances and Father has placed X's with masking tape on the floor to designate to parishioners where they should stand while in the Communion and dismissal lines. The council agreed an arrangement of 3 rows of chairs, where the rows are separated by 6 feet would allow for family units to sit in one row most of the time, with adequate separation from other family units. Karen has obtained 2 face shields for the chanters/singers to use instead of masks. Chanters from different households must be separated by 6 feet. We will need an usher at each service who monitors attendance and locks the church doors once we reach the attendance limit. High-touch surfaces will be wiped with sanitizing wipes. The Archdiocese has not commented on veneration of the icons, but Father has notified parishioners in the bulletin that no one is expected to kiss Father's hand or venerate the icons. Church services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook.

Several council members wondered whether we potentially should consider turning off the air conditioning and opening the windows during services to prevent spread of respiratory droplets. We will ask Todd to weigh in on this.

We discussed the new parish council roles proposed by Karen. All council members agreed to fulfill the new roles as proposed. Each council member will prepare a document before the next council meeting to further define/describe the recurring tasks associated with each role. Julia will send out the link to the parish survey again for reference in preparing the document for each role.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Next meeting at: June 20th at 2pm