

St. James Parish Council  
January 28, 2014 @ 7:00  
MINUTES

Opening Prayer - Fr. Troy *Our meeting opened at 7:05 with a prayer led by Father Troy*

Roll Call *Horak, Fr. Troy, McBride, Vittetoe, Pierson, Diaz, Desner, Stoutner*

Approval of October minutes *Check to see if church life was added to the minutes. Minutes passed with changes.*

Commission Reports

*Hispanic Appreciate all help from the committees for making Los Posadas successful. There was a retreat that was very powerful to attendees. Hispanics from all over the community came.*

*Social Action The gifting tree project was great success again this year. 12 families and 55 individuals were adopted. The school children colored tags and each class adopted children! It is really neat to see our children involved and enthusiastic about the project. Thank you's sent to each classroom and in the bulletin. There were MANY volunteers for the project so it is easy to chair. Personal thank yous received from HACAP as well as one of the families we adopted.*

- *Zulma reported there were many Hispanic events in December and they Spanish community appreciates Anglo support and participation. Hopefully, next year more will attend! The Hispanic committee is evaluating the December project for improvement and planning a retreat for later this month.*
- *Phyllis reported the Saturday kitchen is going well with many repeat volunteers. The menu has been changed which seems to be working quite well. Next Saturday kitchen for St James is scheduled for Feb 22nd.*
- *Debbie reported the Meals on Wheels scheduled in December over Christmas week went ok. She did have a couple 'glitches' (she was in Kansas over the holidays) and felt it would be better to have a chairperson that is able to fill in if needed. Our next assignment for St. James is in June.*
- *Margaret just returned from vacation, so no report.*

*School Board We will be adding an all-day section of 4 year old preschool this coming year. We will be offering 3 sections of pre-school -- 3 year old 1/2 day (T,W,Th mornings), 4*

*year old 1/2 day (M,T,Th, F afternoons) and 4 year old all day (M, T, Th, Fr all day).*

*Church Life The last Church Life meeting was held on Thursday Jan. 2nd. Preparations were made for the Bishops' visit and reception. The menu was decided upon and calling lists were generated with new names from the Stewardship list given to the committee. It was also discussed to form a new "sub-committee" with some of the people who signed up to be on the "welcome" part of Church Life. There are several people wanting to help with this area and it is VERY MUCH needed to coordinate new ideas to welcome our new members in a better and more consistent way.*

*A meeting will be planned with old church life members and new people to plan for more growth in this area.*

*The church reception that was held on Sunday Jan. 12th went very well. LOTS of people attended the rededication of the renovated space and LOTS of food was brought in by many parishioners – even more than was asked for – so food was plentiful. Leftovers went to a good cause also as there were two church functions the following week so ham balls and potatoes were frozen and used the next w/end.*

*Pat Dessner and Jayne Friese have offered to be the CHAIRPERSONS for the annual Soup Supper which will be held in Tobin Hall on Sat. March 15th. Bingo Prizes are currently being sought – we had such a great interest and following from last year – we would like to "step-UP" our game for Bingo prizes this year. If anyone has any GOOD items they would like to donate – please drop them off at the St. James School office anytime. (these can be anything from Planters nuts, to perfume – candles – work gloves for men – sport items for boys – endless possibilities) Also, if you know of anyone wanting to make a half roaster of soup (we ate every drop of soup last year brought in crock-pots so we are going back to asking for a half roaster full again this year) – let us know so we can contact them. Reigning soup winner for two years standing is Teresa Beenblossom with her sauerkraut soup. Who do you think can TOP her soup ?? Would you like to try ??? Let the school office know @ 653-3631 or email Pat Dessner or Jayne Friese. More on soup supper will be in the upcoming church bulletin and on the web-site.*

*Next church life mtg. will be Wed. Feb. 5th @4:15 pm in conference room at St. James.*

*Family Life WorldWide Marriage Encounter Feb. 7-9 in Dubuque. In Cedar Rapids on March 7-9. Martha and Mary's Retreat is at the Grand River Center in Dubuque on Sat. Feb 15th. Marriage Preparation Weekends are Jan. 25 and Feb. 22 at St. John Vianney in Bettendorf.*

*Old Business*

*Election Pat Dessner was elected Chair. Nicole Stoutner elected Co-Chair. Beth McBride was elected Secretary*

*Parish Hospitality Father has read Rebuilt. He would like to have greeters at every door.*

*Pat will talk to Welcoming Committee.*

*Rebuilt book The St. James Parish staff read this book for the fall retreat. The book was given to all members of Parish Council. The book is about reaching out to the lost. Some of the ideas are ones that our Parish can adopt and use.*

*Home Enthronement Father is encouraging families to enthrone their home with the Sacred Heart. Pictures of the Sacred Heart and pamphlets about the Sacred Heart are at Earthly Blessings.*

*Renovation Let Heidi know of issues with pews. The company will be coming to fix them. Lights and lightbulbs are on order.*

*New Business*

*Pastoral Care Committee Made up of people who take Communion to homebound. They will meet once a month to communicate with volunteers. The purpose is to have some consistency and order.*

*Baptismal Prep This is an opportunity to draw the new family into the church. Would like Church Life to be involved. Have a sponsor couple. Make it a date night with the couples.*

*Light of the World Retreat This is similar to CEW (Christian Experience Weekend) This is an evangelization process and you become a member of a small church community that grows. This retreat is in Muscatine March 14-17. Father is contacting members to be a part of leadership for retreat in Washington. Looking at November for the retreat.*

*Young Adult Ministry This will be at JP's 207 on Feb. 13th 7-9 PM. Topic is "Pope Francis: What He's All About". Looking for 20 and 30 year olds.*

*Lenten 40 Hours Devotion 40 hours of Adoration Father will be asking fellow priests to give devotionals. Every 6 or 7 hours having mission talks. Looking at middle of Lent for this retreat. Will be asking for more volunteers for the additional hours.*

*Next meeting will be April 22 at 7:00. Our meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM with an Our Father.*