

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, September 29, 2024
APPROVED Minutes

Annual Parish Report was provided for all in attendance

Meeting called to order at 11:41 a.m. and opening prayer said by Father Robert

Financial Trustee – Craig Schommer

The Boiler Project was included in the 1x1 campaign. The current scope is projected to be about \$200k. Parishioners have currently helped with about \$40k. We have \$60k remaining to pay off. Last year we were ahead of budget by about 80k. Countryfest helps with this every year with the success it has been. Fundraising is a big way to sustain our parish but we need our families to give. Currently, we have about 1,000 families listed in our parish with only about 300 consistently giving. We are working at our numbers and the families to see who still part of St. Nicholas or who we are able to take off our list. We pray for more families to give for the 1x1 campaign. Our current school year is seeing an increase in expenses and salaries. Our enrollment needs to increase in order to sustain our school. The church budgets to assist in subsidizing an amount for the school; however, this year had a deficit of about \$69k. We are not able to maintain this deficit especially with rising costs. We are looking at ways to increase enrollment so we can try to break even from year to year instead of relying on the church.

REPORTS

A) Discipleship Team – Jenny Jochman

Our team looks to create disciples and witnesses of Christ. This year we currently have 42 preparing for 1st Communion and 32 confirmands. We held 3 Better Together nights, 4 Ladies nights, 2- 6 week book studies, as well as our youth nights and once a month middle school breakfast mornings. Our religious Education has 229 followers of Christ signed up for catechism this year. Some students are looking forward to our Love Begins Here in middle school while 22 of our high school students will be attending a Steubenville retreat in Minnesota. We ask for continued prayers for our Discipleship team to do God's will!

B) Building and Grounds – Randy Conrad

We have finalized the boilers and have the old ones demolished with the new boilers installed and up and running. Ready to see how they will work this winter! Our next project is going to be remodeling Father's house while he is gone.

C) Cemetery – Brian Higgins

We were able to purchase a new lawn mower this year and are looking to replace every 6 years if necessary. Thank you to all the workers who have helped cut trees down in the cemetery. Thank you once again to Beaver and Jim Greiner for cutting the cemetery lawn and Tremi for all the weeding! Our new Columbarium has 12 of the 48 niches sold already. We will look into buying another once this one is full. Please check the website for any forms, information and prices or call with any questions you may have to purchase a plot/niche.

D) Saint Nicholas School – Father Robert

We currently have 136 students this school year of 2024-2025. Forty of those students of on school choice. Security has been installed on all the doors and windows. We were also able to get new science curriculum, updated desks and chairs in 3 of the classrooms, and lights up in the rear parking lot among other small items for school. We currently offer volleyball, Running Rockets, and basketball for our older students.

Q&A- Open Discussion-

Father wanted to shout out to all the Sunday Social volunteers! They have been doing a wonderful job coordinating and organizing these get togethers. St. Nicholas is a very good place to be! We are getting calls from other parishes to see what we are doing to prosper with our teens☺ Nice job Discipleship team! Father also thanks the parish for their support and coming together to make St. Nicholas what it is today!

St. Nicholas will be displayed at the Freedom Historic Society for a few months starting in October☺

Sarah VanderLinden wanted to share how much she loves this Parish and acknowledge all the beautiful events that take place here. Thank you to all who put so much time and effort into keep St. Nicholas Awesome!

Approval of Minutes 1st) Carly Peters 2nd) Craig Schommer

Motion to close 1st) Randy Conrad 2nd) Jen Otto

Submitted by Jennifer Otto