

**ST. DAMIAN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016, 7:00PM**

- 1. CURRENT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS:** President - Arlene Korte, Vice-President - Dave Kassen, Secretary - Geri Varel
- 2. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Deacon Glenn, Arlene Korte, Dave Kassen, Geri Varel, Virgil Jansen, Diana Jansen, Pete Toennies, Clay Lynch, Kathy Gonsalves & Tina Tonnie's.
- 3. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Fr. Jack, Gary Arentsen & Jan Mank
- 4. OTHER ATTENDEES:** None
- 5. OPENING:** Deacon Glenn opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 6. MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2015 MEETING:** The minutes of the December 8, 2015, meeting were approved by council members via email and published to the congregation on January 16-17, 2016.
- 7. HISPANIC MINISTRY:** The job description for the N.C. Vicariate Hispanic Minister position (Bob Rapp's position) is being prepared for publication. Bob Rapp will be leaving the position in December 2016. The diocese is hopeful that a replacement can be hired before Bob leaves.
- 8. PARISH LIFE:** The Parish Council election will take place after the masses on March 5-6, 2016. The second terms of Arlene Korte and Diana Jansen are expiring so two vacancies will be filled. Thanks to Tina Tonnie's who agreed to serve a second 3-year term. Nine women in the parish have graciously accepted a nomination to be on the ballot. All parishioners 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote in the election on March 5-6. The 2 ladies with the highest number of votes will begin their 3-year terms at the next parish council meeting on April 12, 2016. Election of Officers will also take place at the April meeting.
- 9. FINANCE:** The financial reports for December 2015 and January 2016 were reviewed and approved.
- 10. PARISH ADMINISTRATION:** Fr. Jack continues to battle medical issues. He will continue to say masses as his health allows with Deacon Glenn assisting. Substitute priests will assist both parishes as needed on the weekends and during upcoming Holy Week.
- 11. LITURGY:**
  - The Lenten season will begin with Ash Wednesday on Feb 10. There will be a communion service with ashes at 7:40am at St. Damian. There will be mass with ashes at 7:40am at St. Bernard. Fr. Jim Allen will conduct a joint Anglo/Hispanic mass with ashes at 7:00pm at St. Damian.
  - The Way of the Cross is scheduled at 7:00pm on Thursday evenings during Lent. St. Bernard will host the Way of the Cross on Feb 11, Feb 25 & March 10. St. Damian will host on Feb 18, March 3 & March 17.
  - Eucharistic Adoration is scheduled in both parishes every Wednesday during Lent. St. Damian 9:00am-12:00pm; St. Bernard 1:00-3:00pm.
  - There will be a joint-parish Reconciliation Service at St. Bernard on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 1:00pm. Reconciliation Services for the Faith Formation students will be held at 7:40am on Monday, March 14 at St. Damian; and on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:40am at St. Bernard. Parishioners are also welcome to participate in the morning services. Masses on March 14 and 15 will be pushed back in order to accommodate the reconciliation services. Mass will start at 8:30am on March 14 & 15.
  - Anointing of the Sick will occur at all masses on Feb 27-28.
  - Tentative Holy Week mass schedule is as follows (please keep your eye on the bulletin for any changes):
    - Palm Sunday, March 19, 5:00pm at St. Bernard with Fr. Fr. Dennis Voss
    - Palm Sunday, March 20, 9:00am at St. Damian with Fr. Jim Allen
    - Palm Sunday, March 20, 11:00am at St. Damian (Hispanic) with Fr. Jim Allen
    - Holy Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm at St. Damian with Fr. Brian Barker
    - Good Friday, March 25, 2:00pm at St. Bernard (priest TBD)
    - Good Friday, March 25, 6:30pm at St. Damian (priest TBD)
    - Good Friday, March 25, 8:00pm at St. Damian (Hispanic mass) (priest TBD)
    - Holy Saturday, March 26, 7:00pm at St. Bernard with Fr. Brian Barker
    - Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:30am at St. Damian with Fr. Jack
    - Easter Sunday, March 27, 10:00am at St. Bernard with Fr. Jack
- 12. CATECHETICAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR REPORT:**
  - The CYM Annual Soup Lunch occurred on Sunday, February 7, 11:00am - 2:00pm. Many delicious soups and desserts were donated. The winner of the "Golden Ladle" was Jackie Toennies with her Bacon Cheeseburger Soup. Thanks to everyone who made soups & desserts, served, cleaned up, or helped in any way. The event was awesome!

- The Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) will take place March 4-6 at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville. Participation is encouraged.
- Operation "Rice Bowl" is in full swing. Parishioners are encouraged to take home a cardboard rice bowl and deposit spare change in it during the Lenten season. Rice Bowls should be brought back to church before Easter on March 27. Simply deposit them in the large metal bowl located in the gathering space. All donations of spare change will be used to feed the poor.
- Lenten prayer booklets were distributed to the Faith Formation students and extra booklets are available in the gathering spaces. Please take one home.
- Adult Bible Education: The Lenten Bible study will begin on February 15, in the St. Damian meeting room
- Confirmation at St. Damian is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016., 7:00pm. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. The Adult Choir will lead the singing.
- First Communion at St. Damian is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 4:00pm (note time change). All parishioners are encouraged to attend. The Youth Choir will lead the singing.

**13. HOLY NAME & ALTAR SODALITY REPORTS:** Please spread the word regarding upcoming events:

- The Ladies Sodality is planning a 4-Hand Euchre Tournament on Friday, March 4, Doors open at 6:30. Play begins at 7:30pm.
- The Men's Holy Name will host their annual Wurstmarkt on Palm Sunday, March 20, from 10:30am - 5:30pm.

**14. BUILDING MAINTENANCE:**

- The steps at the side entrance was repaired by Hemker Resurfacing. Item complete.
- The coat of water sealant applied by Warnecke Restoration Services on the south and east walls of the parish house late last year appears to be working. The issue will continue to be monitored. The Finance Committee recommended that the parish seek quotes to repair the interior water damage in both south bedrooms and furnace room upstairs. Item tabled.
- The church bells were fixed by Verdin at a cost of \$1178.78. Recommendation approved to discontinue contract with Moellinger Electronics who was unsure how to fix the bells.

**15. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Joint Parish Directory: The new parish directories are being printed. Estimated delivery is expected before Easter. Parishioners will be notified when the directories come in. Those who had their photo taken by LifeTouch will receive a free book. Those who submitted a photo will owe \$10 for a book. Any parishioner or family who has not submitted their \$10, please do so ASAP to Geri Varel, 106 N. Church St. Damiansville IL 62215.
- Final thoughts were discussed regarding the annual Joint-Parish Council holiday meal held on January 15. Thanks to the St. Bernard Council for hosting. St. Damian will host in 2016.

**16. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Special "Thanks" to St. Damian Confirmation students William Athmer, Ben Kassen & Cole Arentsen and their parents for scrubbing and cleaning the mold and dirt off the cemetery fence. It looks awesome! Way to go!
- Cemetery damage: During recent high winds, a tree limb fell out of one of the trees and damaged one of the old tombstones. Ed Kramer fixed the stone. There are a few old trees in the cemetery that serve no useful purpose. It was recommended that 3 old trees be taken down and grind out the stumps. The flag pole in the cemetery also needs attention. These items will be brought to attention of the Holy Name for possible action during their next work day.
- A recommendation was made to remove the existing concrete and install a new sidewalk on the west side of the gym to be used as a handicap accessible entrance to the picnic grounds from the south parking lot. This recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Holy Name for possible action during their next work day.

**17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- Parish Council election results/Election of new officers.
- Update on cemetery trees, flag pole and concrete sidewalk
- Ladies Sodality and Holy Name reports (Euchre Tourney/Wurstmarkt)
- Parish directory update
- Next step for repair of water damage in parish house

**18. NEXT MEETING:** Next parish council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00pm in the parish meeting room.

**19. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

**As always, all parish council meetings are open to the public.  
Please inform the parish secretary (588-4323 or 979-5933)  
if you would like to speak to a topic or voice a concern,  
so it can be added to the agenda.**