

St. Edward Annual Parish Meeting Saturday, October 6, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

Fr. Robert opened the meeting thanking everyone for coming. He continued stating that at every annual meeting we see numbers and reports from various committees and school. All those reports are telling us what we are as a community here at St. Edward and how our life is being influenced by everything that we do and what we're traveling towards. Thank you to everyone presenting reports and others who are able to be with us today.

Pastoral Life: Deacon Jeff

- We continue to visit between 15 and 20 people every week either at their homes or in assisted living facilities. With Deacon Gary retiring, Fr. has taken an increased role in providing communion services and offering Masses at Willows, Country Villa, Ballard Glenn and Primrose with us.
- This year we prepared for and hosted 5 weddings, helped 12 funeral families and directed families through 23 baptisms.
- Deacon Jeff stated he is awed at all the help from volunteers who come forward whether it's on the grounds, cleaning the cemetery, through sacrament prep or just visiting friends at home. He thanked those who contribute their time, talent and treasure to help us to bring God's kingdom here to St. Edward in Mackville and the surrounding area.

Pastoral Council – Rae Ryan

The Pastoral Council is tasked with overseeing the following One x One campaigns for the parish:

- The Outdoor Learning Center: Our OLC was recently completed. We have not yet ordered furniture. We know we don't want permanent fixtures, so are currently looking at different types of outdoor furniture. We have \$17,585 available for that purchase.
- Outreach – One of our designated Outreach programs is VIDA, known for their commitment to life. They care for expectant mothers and their newborns. We have \$38,547 available for that program.
- Music Ministry – Lynn and Mike Collom are no longer here but have agreed to help with the 175th Anniversary Mass. Jim and Shari Beck have agreed to take over the choir. Patrick Berg will select music for Masses and Cathy Lombardi is handling the scheduling of cantors and musicians. We have \$16,946 to contribute to this campaign.

Finance Council – Tom Pethan, Chair

Tom introduced Council members: Mark Hofacker, Tim Westphal, Liz Harp, Nichole Pietsch, Pat Coonen (Treasurer Trustee) and Erin Ebben (staff). He thanked Erin for helping to keep the Council rolling. Tom then shared some brief comments:

- Giving has been stable (parish support and offertory). Over the past year we saw a slight decrease but it's pretty flat. (362k in 2023-24 vs. 377k 2022-23) This current fiscal year through July/August is actually a very strong 61k. compared to 45k this time last year. That's a 36% increase these first two months over last year at this time. It's a good start.
- This past fiscal year fundraisers did very well. The three main fundraisers, the Tractor Pull, Harvest Moon and Fish Fry) net \$188k vs \$180k the previous fiscal year, for a 4.2% increase.
- Our investment accounts' performance has been strong this past year which consists of St. Francis Xavier accounts and the endowment, (both through the diocese). Trailing 12-month rate of return across accounts through June 2024 is 10-11%, while the range as of August 2024 is 14-15%, which is very good.
- This past fiscal year there was a sizable gift to our endowment, roughly doubling the value from the previous year.
- We are currently moving funds into the Building & Grounds investment account after withdrawing a large amount in 2022-23 to cover some extensive projects. We are shifting over to a dollar cost averaging approach of \$10,000 a month through June of 2025.
- The largest line item is Personnel Costs which increased slightly over the year. This includes wages, health insurance, etc.
- Overall, the parish finance health continues to be strong.

Maintenance Report – Cathy Schwieso on behalf of the Building & Grounds Steering Committee

Cathy introduced the members of the Building and Grounds Steering Committee: Fr. Robert, Deacon Jeff, Dave Holly, Mike Ebben, Don Coonen, Dave Calmes, Tim Westphal, Mark Hofacker (Finance Council liaisons) and Cathy. In November, Art Gauthier, a new member at St. Edward, will be joining the committee.

- **Facilities Manager** – Dave Holly filled this position in April 2024. Dave brings over 40 years of custodial management expertise to his position and we are grateful he has joined St. Edward.
- **Part-time Janitor Position:** Luke Lybert was hired in August by both St. Edward and St. Nicholas. Luke works four hours at each facility.

Projects completed in 2023-2024:

- **Church - repairs:**
 - Volunteers painted the St. Edward Room, hallways, St. Nicholas Room, the Prayer Chapel and the Confessional room.
 - Church Mezzanine cleaned and organized by various committees who store items there.
 - Outside masonry walls sealed.
 - Cupola and soffit repaired.
 - Cemetery headstones cleaned.
 - Outside church entrance doors refinished.
- **Church - new:**
 - Masonry platforms built to hold statues of the Holy Family and St. Edward inside church.
 - Artifacts cabinets built and installed.
 - New water softening tank installed.
 - Four new furnaces and a new AC unit installed.
 - Zero turn lawnmower purchased.
 - Parking lot timers installed to turn on at 4:30 pm; off at 10:30 pm.
 - Reflectors installed at north entrance.
 - Baby changing station installed in bathroom near parish office.
- **School - repairs**
 - Electrical panel updated. (Tremendous amount of volunteer time which kept costs down.)
- **School – new**
 - New soffit, fascia and vents installed on the roof.
 - New boiler controls installed.
 - New carpeting installed in two administrative offices and the 3rd grade.
 - New phone installed in the elevator.
 - Baby changing station installed in bathroom near school offices.

Rental properties: East Rental Home (Mackville Road)

- New renters as of this summer. This home was completely cleaned, and some rooms painted.
- Tree branches touching roof tops removed.

Rental properties: West Rental Home (Hwy 47)

- New furnace and AC unit stalled.
- Chimney inspected and repaired.
- Gas fireplace to be installed.

Projects slated for 2025-2026:

Church:

- New fiberglass entrance doors (to eliminate the need for refinishing every two-three years)
- Lights installed to illuminate the Sr./Handicapped parking area in the parking lot.

School:

- Carpet remaining four classrooms to coincide with asbestos removal in one of the classrooms.
- Two bathrooms to be remodeled in 2025, remaining two in 2026, spreading the cost over time.

Volunteers: Cathy echoed other presenters' gratitude for the many volunteers who are truly the backbone at St. Edward Parish.

Cemetery Report – Ervin Van Camp was not present.

New Evangelization –Fr. Robert on behalf of Celia McKee, Mary Hildebrand and Amy Froehlich

NE K-12 Program Report

- The NE Wednesday night program remains consistent with numbers.
- The main focus for elementary students last school year was the Super Heroes of the Old Testament, making it come to life through skits and creative costumes.
- Main focus for elementary student this year is the Beatitudes.
- We are applying the Beatitudes to today's language by partnering with the Knights of Columbus coat drive for the Salvation Army. NE will be collecting boots and snow pants.
- The main focus for Grades 6-11 last year was the Eucharist as well as mental health awareness. This year we are focusing on the history of the Catholic Church in our area in light of the 175th Anniversary, as well as Vocations.
- We are loving the new OLC and held classes there for the first three nights of NE.
- It is becoming more of a challenge for consistent attendance on Wednesdays as extra curriculums are being scheduled on Wednesday evenings, as well as every single day of the week. We are thinking outside the box, broadening faith experiences for the older students, offering other opportunities OFF of Wednesday events. We also re-subscribed to Formed with the intention of helping busy families. It is a work in progress. We also could use more adult volunteers.

NE K-12 Program Report *continued*

Young Adult Report:

- The Playground Group was held at the St. Edward playground this summer with many families joining us.
- Moms and Tots Group have been building relationships with the parents and our tots. Tots move onto school, so we hope to reach new families.
- We sent care packages to our 2023 high school graduates whether they attended college, entered the work force or military. We plan to send care packages again to the 2024 graduates.
- Sisters of the Spirit and Ladies Nights' Women's Ministries have been well attended by both young adults and adults.
- Looking forward to planning some Young Adult events in the OLC.

Adult NE Report

- Intergenerational opportunities for grandparents and youth to join together and learn about the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- The Lenten opportunity introduced preparing oneself and family for making end-of life decisions and funerals that are based on our Catholic faith were very well attended.
- Upcoming this year will include a Bible study focused on "The Mass Through Understanding the Bible" as well as an Advent candlelight concert.
- In February, a brunch is being planned to honor and celebrate the many ways our Knights of Columbus support our parish and school.

School Report – Renee Cowart, Principal

Renee stated this is her 9th year as Principal, and as she was a teacher prior to this position, she had her first class of 3-year-olds graduate from the 5th grade this past year.

- There are 62 students at St. Edward School, up five from last year. 3K is at capacity with 16 and there is a wait list. 4K has growth every year since we changed it three years ago from a public to a St. Edward program. It's great to see this growth and our goal is now to retain them all the way through 5th grade.
- We have a number of new staff members: Martha Speel works in the office on the two days Lynn is off. Miss Trainor is new in the 4th and 5th grade. Miss Johnson is a new teacher in 4K. She has an aid, Mrs. Wurster in the morning. Our new 2nd and 3rd grade afternoon teacher, who also teaches Art, is Ms. Corsmeier, who comes with 37 years of experience teaching in catholic schools. We are loving the new staff, their energy and the new ideas they bring.
- We have wonderful volunteers and some generous donations to sponsor lunch for our students. With those donations we are able to provide five of our students free lunch this year.

Home & School – Bethany Brincks, one of the out-going co-chairs of Home and School

- This past year we purchased:
 - New stage curtains and hung them, along with installing rails downstairs in school. The curtains are interchangeable.
 - We helped cover the remaining costs of the 5th grade tree that is out by the playground.
- Future projects include:
 - New concert risers.
 - New costumes, as some are being held together by safety pins. We're hoping some of the fundraisers this year will fund these two projects.
- Last year fundraisers
 - Kwik Trip car wash coupons (\$3,000).
 - Culver's coupon cards (\$3,760).
 - Uncle Mike's Bake Shoppe Kringle sale (\$1,439.25).
 - The Golf Outing – our largest fundraiser, brought in over \$21,000, and we are able to put that amount toward the nest swings, balance board, stepping pebble course and new safety barrier. We would need to raise \$20,000-\$25,000 to finish the playground.

Worship/Music/Organ Committee – Pat Coonen, Trustee

- Pat explained the Worship Committee meets with Fr. and Deacon and to coordinate the upcoming seasons as far as environment, along with working with the music and media departments, so that everyone is on the same page.
- We've been very excited to be involved in planning all of the activities with our 175th Anniversary. Along with Bishop Ricken and Fr. Robert celebrating Mass this coming Sunday, there will be six other priests: Fr. Ron Belitz, Fr. Walter Stumpf (former pastors), Fr. Judah Pigon, Fr. Kris Mekala and Msgr. Jim Vanden Hogan (all who have assisted with Masses and Confessions) and Fr. John Hephner, who is a descendant of the family who hosted the first Mass celebrated in Mackville in 1849. They will be assisted by our own Deacon Jeff and Deacon Steve Vande Hey. As of today, the dinner reservations are closed with 250 dinners. Pat expressed her hope that the church will be full and invited all to attend Mass and participate this historical celebration.
- The committee is grateful to have the religious statues brought into the main body of the church as well as the artifact cabinets in the gathering area which reflect our deep heritage.

Tractor Pull Report – Lynn Schuh, co-chair on behalf of Rodger Baum, Chair

- Lynn explained there are about 12 on the steering committee and about 25 sub-committee volunteers.
- Net proceeds from the 48th Annual Tractor Pull totaled \$103,688.
- We repeated the Thursday night pulls which replaced the Saturday afternoon pulls.
- We kept both east and west sides open for beverages and food to accommodate the large crowds.
- It rained on Sunday, so the farm tractor pulls were cancelled, but the family activities and food and beverage tents were well attended that day.
- We now own our tents.
- New admission chairs: Cathy & Paul Lombardi.
- We had a larger volunteer base this year, which is encouraging.
- This is the second year WLUK-TV Fox 11 / Good Day Wisconsin interviews. This promotional viewing was seen by many, and it was good publicity.
- Next year we need a grilling person as Todd Klitzke is stepping down.
- We plan to increase our general admission from \$20 to \$25 to meet the rising costs of the pulling organization.

Harvest Moon Committee – Bethany Brincks

- Last year we had 87 online silent auction baskets which brought in \$7,605.
- 20 live auction items bringing in \$10,180.
- 14 different games for \$11,036.80.
- Main raffle which came \$1,078.93.
- 200 people were served dinner. 2023 was our last year at Grand Meridian.
- Total profit was \$47,227.33.
- This year the event is at St. Nicholas in Freedom on October 26th. The doors open at 5. We'd love to see everyone there.

Fish Fry Committee – Denise Brincks, co-chair

- Fish Fries are held the six Fridays of Lent each year.
- Fish fries brought in \$40,753 in 2024.
- We'd like to thank all the volunteers for each fish fry, beginning with ordering on Monday through Friday night cleanup.
- Upcoming 2024 fish fry season dates are: March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4 and 11. Please plan to join us.

Living Justice Committee – Tom Pethan presenting for Becky Lewin

One of the missions of our community is to meet the needs of those who may be struggling in many ways. By looking beyond, the needs of the parish, we can help extend the care of Christ.

- **Freedom Food Pantry:** very grateful for our participation in the program.
- **Monthly Stewardship:** Monthly we send \$300-400, along with items collected for the needs of a selected non-profit.
- **Flowers to Friends at Home:** Deliveries are made at Christmas and Easter.

Additional Comments:

Fr. Robert asked if anyone wanted any clarifications or questions. A parishioner asked for the total cost for the Outdoor Learning Center. Fr. answered that it was around \$180,000. \$90,000 was from the One x One Campaign. The remainder came from donations received from families. Fr. answered questions regarding yearly records, which can be found in the Annual Parish Life Report. Regarding keeping track of St. Edward attendance, he stated it's difficult to say how many St. Edward families attend Masses as many from St. Nicholas also attend.

Fr. ended the meeting by stating that throughout each report, we heard that we are grateful for volunteers. We are very grateful for everyone one of you here and all those not here, who are involved in all the committees/councils. Without you we wouldn't be able to do the things that we do. Whether fundraising or other social events, or even the liturgy, we need people to help. We have people who are more than willing to share their time and talent, but I wish we would have more people get involved so they could see the growth and the impact we make on families, whether in the parish, school or the whole St. Edward's community. Once again, as Administrator here at St. Edward, I'd like to thank every one of you for doing so much for our parish.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Schwieso