

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2023
7:00 pm

Attending:

Fr. Ernest, Katie Johnson, Melissa Pakurar, Arlene Masters, Cathy Jones, Tom Bahr, Meera Del Favero, Erin Drumm, Beverly Freed, Lois Ann Guschke, Joyce Navary, Chit Peters, John Thompson

Absent:

Alex Clark, Chris Colohan, Carl Grunow, Angel Martinez, Melisa Phillingane

Arlene Masters led the group in opening prayer.

September minutes were approved as submitted. Request was made that minutes be emailed prior to meetings so that members could review in advance.

Baptismal Font Update

In Angel Martinez's absence, Melissa Pakurar reported that the plumbing and tile for the font are in progress. The waterproof membrane (Schluter system) will go in next. The goal is for this project to be completed before Thanksgiving.

Leaking Roof Update

Melissa Pakurar reported that the detailed report from the investigation of the roof confirmed that the parapet wall does not have the proper membrane between the ceiling and the roof. The next step is to obtain three bids. The repair involves taking the wall down and putting the membrane in on both sides. This will all be outside work with no disruption inside. Once it has been determined that the leak issue has been corrected, the ceiling will be repaired and painting will begin.

Ministry/Council Liaison Updates

Tom Bahr reported that Food Pantry visits have increased substantially over time, while also serving larger families. Door Dash is picking up and delivering to six families who have no transportation. The company pays the drivers, and there is no charge to us for this service. Tom also reported that Mike Richeson said the vegetable garden is winding down for the season and they will replant in the spring.

Chit Peters said there are no concerns from Catholic Daughters. Veterans Day recognition will be on November 12.

Joyce Navary reported for the RCIA team (Joyce, Chit Peters, and Arlene Masters). Responsibilities (making contacts, lesson preparation, etc.) are shared but worked on separately. Meetings are set up for Tuesday evenings, but additional time may be required to address all necessary topics while allowing time for additional questions raised by the candidates. Fr. Ernest suggested that the team get together and brainstorm to ensure that everything is covered and that everyone knows who is doing what.

Beverly Freed reported that the Prison Ministry had not been active since Covid. But Katie Johnson said that Riverside had recently contacted Jeff Mincks about needing to restock Bibles there.

John Thompson talked with Gary See from the Knights. They are meeting October 28 to repair bikes for Pass It On scheduled for November 4. Also, Brunswick Stew is coming up on November 3 and 4.

Cathy Jones shared that the Knights have generously donated two granite benches near the crucifix at St. Ann Cemetery. All Souls Day Mass will be celebrated at the cemetery at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 2, followed by a potluck lunch. Cathy also reported that the Memory Garden bricks are scheduled to ship on October 23. Landscaping for that area is being worked on. Additionally, the Donovans said that the flower gardens are being taken care of and are in good shape.

Music Ministry – Organ

Following up on her observation at last month's meeting, Beverly readdressed the organ at the front of the worship space. She has been told that it doesn't work, parts are not available for it, and that it would not be worth anything if traded. She feels it should be moved to clear the space and avoid having to look at the back of an unused instrument. Meera Del Favero and Melissa said that it is not broken—it's just not used. Meera will check into this with Chris and others to see how many can play it. Katie Johnson suggested that we not jump too quickly on this as we don't know how liturgy might change in the future.

8:30 Mass Timeline

Fr. Ernest said that the timeline for the 8:30 Mass needs to be tightened up to accommodate the Christian Formation schedule. Teachers need to be out by 9:30 to be prepared to start with students at 9:45, but they don't want to leave Mass early. Fr. Ernest said that he can be conscious of the length of his homily, and the staff is discussing other ways to keep the Mass limited to an hour (such as starting announcements a few minutes early and shortening songs).

There was a question raised about the possibility of making Mass times permanent instead of changing the 11:15 Mass to 10:30 in the summer when Christian Formation classes are not in session. This was tabled till the next meeting for further discussion.

Communication

Katie brought up that there is not good communication between Council and the parish and that we must be better. She emphasized that there are four ways to communicate—announcements at Mass, bulletin, email, and the Facebook page. Erin Drumm noted that for some people the only method of receiving parish news is the bulletin. Some of our elderly parishioners are housebound, and not all are computer savvy. Katie reiterated that we need to use all these ways all the time! It was agreed that Council will submit to Katie brief "Parish Council Highlights" for her review and approval for inclusion in the bulletin between meetings.

International Food Festival

Mally Mason was not present at this meeting to give an update on plans for an International Food Festival, which may be a possibility for Fall of 2024. Katie said that while it is too late for a parish picnic this year, a couple of people have expressed interest in coordinating this for next year. Fr. Ernest said that could be combined with Mally's idea if that is a go for 2024. Otherwise, there needs to be some sort of gathering.

Closing

Arlene led the closing prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16.