

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
March 21, 2024**

The Parish Pastoral council meeting was called to order at 6:00PM in the CCC. Members present were Tom Oscar, Mary Bailey, Pete Pintens, Bear Wadzinski, Levi Spath, and Fr. Louis. Members absent: Doug Duchac, Michele Wingate, Mary Luetke and Sandy Bishop. Others present: Marianna Merkatoris and Laura Reiter.

Fr. Louis began the meeting with a prayer.

The Mission Statement was read.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Mary B. made a motion to approve the minutes, Bear seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Staff reports: Tom reviewed the staff reports.

Old Business:

1. Review of Faith Night: This program had the most people we have had including some new faces. In June, when the staff calendars the next year, Juanita and Marianna will look at good times to have the Faith Nights next year, possibly changing the day of the week that they are held on.
2. Wednesday night sports programs: Juanita talked with the Superintendent of the Public School and he said that the Wednesday night activities she was talking about were “club” activities and not school sponsored activities, so he could not do anything about those activities. These “club” activities will continue on Wednesdays.
3. Discipleship and Evangelization: Marianna talked about how we will be starting with forming small groups, based on demographics and shared interests. These groups will be more social at first, but will move towards bringing people back to the church and faith formation. The Diocese will have training for leaders of these small groups sometime in the future. Marianna has also asked Sr. Ann Marie who has experience in spirituality to help with training for the leaders of these small groups. This will help the leaders relate to people one-on-one. Training will begin in the fall. Levi said there was a young adult community starting at Nativity in Rhinelander that we may want to connect with. Marianna has a Mom and Tots group in the formation stage and will be visiting Holy Family to see how their group works.

Levi talked about having one large group event a year instead of a few small ones.

New Business:

1. Update from March 10th meeting at Rice Lake (discussed above in #3).
2. The 2024 budget process is underway: Laura reported that no big projects are planned. Laura also reported that in an effort to reduce our CSA expense to the parish, we will have a second collection for the CSA on Easter, Memorial Day, and July Fourth weekends.
3. Four candidates to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil. A reception will follow.
4. A craft fair will be held in the CCC on April 13th with the proceeds benefiting our school.

5. Proposal for bathrooms: The proposal from Miron Construction was reviewed by the council and it was a unanimous vote that we could not move forward financially at this time. The council wants to focus on initiating various programs to increase parish membership/participation and in turn, increase revenue flow. The council proposed to do a better job utilizing the existing handicap area, including a better job of fastening the chairs to the floor as well as reminders to our ushers. The council said that as the outreach efforts across the parish continue to show positive results, the bathroom project can be looked at again. Thank you to Jan and Guy at Miron for their efforts.

Other Business:

1. It was brought up that the collection for Operation Rice bowl should be evaluated. Through Catholic Relief Services, that program funds things that do not align with Catholic Doctrine. Marianna will speak to someone at the diocese.
2. Levi would like the church to be open more hours so that people can pray. The staff will talk about this and see what some options may be.

Tom led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:06PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, **April 18** at 6:00PM in the CCC. Levi will lead the closing prayer.

Minutes submitted by Laura Reiter