

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
May 18, 2023**

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

Fr. Louis began the meeting with a prayer.

The Mission Statement was read. The new members were welcomed!

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

Staff reports: The staff reports were reviewed. There was a discussion on what the council might want from the staff reports. If the reports could be linked to the goals and strategy of the council, that would be good. The council will review this in the future. Jan had an update on Deacon Scheuer's presentation on the "Real Presence of the Eucharist" occurring on June 19th at St. Mary's. Flyers have gone in the bulletins and out to other parishes in our deanery. Also, an ad was taken out in the Catholic Herald.

**Old Business:**

1. Mass counts/Volunteer updates: Jan reported 6 new Eucharist Ministers.
2. Family Mass: Adopt a Grandparent tabled until Fall.
3. Mass time change: The two committees, one from St. Mary's and one from St. Augustine will meet on Monday, May 22 to discuss the issue of mass times. A Diocesan representative will be there to help facilitate.
4. Youth Minister: Marianna has spoken to a four people about being on a committee to plan youth events. A question was raised about why there is no youth at Extreme Faith Camp this year. Marianna said she did show the video and talk about it with the middle school, but no one was interested.
5. QR codes update: Laura put the sheet out with the QR codes on them in the pews during Holy Week. Since then, she has noticed just 3 new online givers, but two of the gifts were over \$700. The council mentioned making them even more visible—like on the doors.

**New Business:** There was no time to discuss any of the new business on the agenda. Laura handed out a "Parish Pastoral Council Overview" and Tom handed out notes on the recent Evangelization Teams Workshop.

Other Business:

1. Respect Life Display: St. Mary's Church received another email asking for the removal of the Respect Life Display from the church. The email was saying how this display could possibly be hurtful for women who have experienced a miscarriage or had an abortion. Marianna said she did reach out to the sender, but did not receive a reply back. The council debated the pros and cons of this issue and then was asked to contemplate the issue. Some possible solutions would be to have literature and resources by the display or to have it out only at certain times of the year. It will be addressed again at the next meeting.
2. Current state of the School: Laura reported that one teacher has been hired for the 2nd-3rd grade classroom and they have a prospective hire for the Kindergarten classroom.

Sandy did the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM. Michele will do closing prayer next month.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15 at 6:00PM in the CCC.

Minutes submitted by Laura Reiter