

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

**July 20, 2021**

The Parish Pastoral council meeting was called to order at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room. Members present were Joe Mattke, Bear Wadzinski, Doug Duchac, Walt Woiten, Tom Oscar, Nancy Huber, Sandy Bishop, Karen Gauerke, and Fr. Louis. Member absent: Michele Wingate. Staff members present: Marianna Merkatoris, Ann Jelinek and Laura Reiter.

Fr. Louis started the meeting with a prayer.

The Mission Statement was read.

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

Staff reports: The staff reports were reviewed.

Religious Education: Karen asked if information on confirmation was sent out, and Marianna said that the confirmands and their parents received information.

Parish Nurse: Ann reported that a notice will be posted in the church that will list all the items that are available to use for any health emergencies that may arise in the church. The notice is for ushers and parishioners, and the ushers will be individually informed of all the safety measures that are in place.

Old Business:

1. ALICE training: ALICE training will take place on Sunday, August 22 from 9:15-10:45 AM. A letter will go out to all liturgical ministers to invite them to the meeting. Notice will be put in the bulletin, on Facebook, and on the parish web page to invite parishioners. Also, announcements will be made at mass the weekend before and the weekend of the training.
2. Outdoor Mass: The outdoor Mass will be Sunday, August 8 at 11AM at Veterans' Memorial Park. Handpicked Bluegrass will be providing the music for the Mass. They offered to play a few songs after Mass, so the parish will be invited to bring a picnic lunch and stay after Mass for fellowship. The park is reserved until 2PM for St. Mary's. Help is needed to bring the altar and other supplies to the park on August 8th. Ann will look into getting a trailer. Sandy and Joe said they are available to help bring things from the church to the park after the 8AM Mass.
3. Evangelization: The council will change its focus from Evangelization to Parish Development. Parish Development is the meaningful involvement of people in our Mission. Parish Development leads to Evangelization and Stewardship. The first step is to access our parish. The council did an activity that listed each ministry and activity of St. Mary's Church and started to categorize which age of people were involved in each. Marianna will update the list and send it out to everyone.

The next step is to have parishioners access our parish. The council thought surveys may be a good way to do this. Surveys could be done in the pews, using survey monkey, by mail, or by phone. Sample survey questions will be sent to the council in advance of the next meeting so that the survey can be discussed at the next meeting.

Ann offered her cousin to come and present a program she does for churches, "New Life Through Shared Ministry". The council thought that would be good for later in our process.

New Business: There was no new business.

Other Business:

1. Tom suggested that the members take turns preparing and leading the closing prayer at the meetings. Fr. Louis gave some guidance on this--it does not have to be a in-depth prayer and members do not have to spend a lot of time preparing one. It can just be a simple prayer like "The Lord's Prayer". Marianna and Jan have resources if anyone needs help. Marianna offered to do the closing prayer at the next meeting.
2. Diocesan changes: Fr. Louis mentioned some changes that the Bishop wrote in a letter to the parish. Not much has changed. We can have altar servers, but we will wait awhile and then have a training for them. We can use the holy water fonts, but Fr. Louis wants to keep using just the touchless ones for now. We are to continue with mask wearing and social distancing on the altar. Communion on the tongue is allowed, but eucharistic ministers must sanitize their hands each time they give communion this way. Food will continue to be served by individuals and they must wear masks while serving.

Bear made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sandy seconded it and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 17 at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Reiter