

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
November 16, 2021**

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

Fr. Louis began the meeting with a prayer; Tom read the Mission Statement.

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

Staff reports were reviewed.

Marianna: A question was asked about whether the high school Religious Ed program was for all students or just those preparing for Confirmation. Marianna clarified that the program was for everyone. She is considering the development of a peer leadership group of 10th – 12th grade students who have already been confirmed who would assist with activities and other aspects of the high school program. Marianna also noted that the December classes are intended to build community among the students prior to the required classes starting in the new year.

Rita: Information was shared about a significant funding opportunity under consideration by the Finance Council that could provide tuition assistance for eligible students (current and future). The school would be required to submit an application by January 10th. More information will be available at the next meeting. Rita also mentioned that a bequest was made to the Diocese of Superior that would help to reduce the amount of the church subsidy for the operation of the school.

Old Business:

1. Outdoor Mass: Joe noted that Jan and Michele will be giving an update at the next meeting.
2. Standing committee development discussion: In response to the council's request from the previous meeting, Laura and Marianna shared detailed spreadsheets of current ministries/activities grouped into categories, along with descriptions of the ministry/activity, who it serves, the staff involved, and the volunteers involved. It was noted that there is overlap in terms of the various audiences and age groups served and what staff and volunteers are responsible for.

In addition, a chart of staff and council responsibilities was shared. Staff will continue to discuss and clarify. It was mentioned that hospitality and service fall under the council's role.

Council members were encouraged to review the information and begin thinking about goals for the future in terms of outreach and engagement. A suggestion was made to develop an overarching strategic goal that could serve as a guide for our work.

There was further discussion about ways to communicate available ministry opportunities to the parish community, including creating a simplified booklet describing the opportunities with contact information for each ministry, holding another ministry fair, and giving presentations before or after Mass.

New Business: There was no new business.

Other Business: Bear asked about whether parishioners can begin bringing up the gifts again. Fr. Louis responded that we will continue with the current practice (usher bringing up the collection basket) in light of ongoing concerns with Covid. Fr. Louis also mentioned, however, that we would be returning to the normal practice for the Sign of Peace as of the first Sunday of Advent.

Fr. Louis will be making a trip to India during the month of January. We will have an interim priest assigned to our parish cluster.

Tom led the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 4 at 6:00PM in the Parish Conference Room.

Minutes submitted by Sandy Bishop.