



**ST. JOSEPH PARISH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
June 11, 2019**

ST. JOSEPH PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the faithful of St. Joseph Parish, willingly accept our baptismal call to gather and Worship as a Community, to proclaim the Word of God, and to serve in the image of Jesus Christ.

Meeting was called to order at St. Joseph at 7:00PM by Ed Holley. The opening prayer was led by Gary Dawson.

Attendance:

- Present: Msgr. Kelley, Dn. Feaster, Mary Anderson, Marty Brett, Gary Dawson, Ed Holley, Tom Kane, Mary Kirk, Erin Marchlik, Tony Puchowski, Tonie Vandenberg, John Sanders, Stephanie Szczerba
- Absent/Excused: Amy Brenner, Dave Burns, Fr. Hanley,

Tony Puchowski was welcomed as the newest member of Pastoral Council. Tony's term will begin in September.

May Minutes: Minutes were approved with no objections

Correspondence: No correspondence received

Reports - Standing Committees

- **Finance - Update provided by John Sanders**
 - Finances continue to be stable
 - Anticipated that 2019 will be better than budget
 - Not anticipating any major expenses
 - Focus is on finalizing 2020 budget, which is due to the diocese by end of June
 - John offered to walk through the 2020 budget with any member of Pastoral Council if asked
- **Liturgy - Update provided by Stephanie Szczerba**

Liturgy Committee Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Ed Fitzgerald at 7:06pm.

Opening Prayer: Marty Brett led us in prayer.

Acceptance of Minutes: The May 6, 2019 minutes were accepted as submitted.

Attendance:

Present: Deacon Mike Boyd, Marty Brett, Lauren Cataldi-May, Jack Corbett, Phil Czerniak, Jackie Delaporte, Deacon Dave Feaster, Ed Fitzgerald, Rosemary Hadland, Dee Headley, Monsignor David Kelley, Bette Luzetsky, Rita Ryor, Liz Teixeira, Barb

Zasowski

Excused: Fr. Chris Hanley, Stephanie Szczerba, Pat Fitzgerald

Reports/Concerns/Plans:

- Eucharist Ministers of the Sick Formation was held on May 25, with 6 new EMHC trained by Msgr. Kelley and George Latsko.
- Jan Faust (5th week) asked for help at Broadmeadow Nursing Home
- Refresher on EMHC Housekeeping Details
- Originally a training session was proposed to address current issues, but after discussion it was decided to try having Shelly send emails to the EMHCs, as we become aware of issues, such as the one pertaining to the corporals. Pat maintains a list of issues and will send a few at a time to Shelly for distribution to the EMs.
- Little response to usher letter received but one looks promising. Phil remains hopeful. Ed will bring the shortage up at next K of C meeting. Bigger issue is that many ushers do not want to commit to a schedule. However, if attending a Mass where help is needed, they will volunteer
- Noise in Church and Gathering Space Before Mass- Still receiving complaints from parishioners that the noise is distracting as they prepare for Mass. This issue was discussed last month. Recommendation was to leave doors closed

and open as parishioners approach to enter. Phil will reinforce this practice with the ushers but even with the doors closed, noise carries into the church. Closed doors are not enough to eliminate the noise. Someone must be willing to give. Msgr. Kelley commented, "Where is the space for Christian Charity, on both sides?" Msgr. offered that he understands the issue because he experiences it in his own preparation and has learned to prepare before arriving at church or walk around the church grounds. There are times when a prayer service may be conducted before Mass - praying the Rosary or Stations of the Cross. There is no simple solution. Someone will be offended regardless of our approach and with the culture today it is little things, like this, people use to leave the parish. St. Rose of Lima Church has an additional issue with the location of the HVAC main register being in the foyer. If the doors are closed heating or cooling of the church is negatively impacted.

- Signs were added to the St. Joseph Gathering Space in the past year, just as a reminder of silence upon entering, but some took offense.
- Old Business
- Pat submitted Committee meeting dates- all the first Monday of the month. There were two exceptions- Thursday, September 5th and April's meeting date which will be Monday, March 30th due to the Chrism Mass being on Monday, April 6th.
- New Business
- Opening and Closing Prayer Sign-up
- Ed did not have sign-up sheet for the coming year with him. To cover the next meeting, September 5th, Phil Czerniak said he would take the opening prayer and Shelly DiPietrapaul volunteered for the closing prayer. The prayer schedule for balance of fiscal year can be addressed at the September 5th meeting
 - Rosemary, on behalf of the committee, thanked Ed for the many years of leadership and guidance. Ed responded by thanking the committee for their support and cooperation.
 - Closing Prayer: Rosemary Hadland
 - Because Pat was not present to provide us with "more information" the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM
 - Next Meeting: NOTE THE CHANGE...Thursday September 5, 2019 at 7 PM in St. Joseph Parish Center.
- Respectfully submitted

Marty Brett

Christian Formation – Update provided by Mary Anderson

Adult Faith Formation Committee

- Deacon Mike's PowerPoint on the Blessed Mother was well researched and well received. Thirty two people attended. The Knights of Columbus displayed a special image of Our Mother "Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians," in one of her many roles in the church, for the occasion.
- The topic of Larry Bock's presentation, scheduled for September, has been changed from "Elements of the Mass," to focus on the Bible and scripture in two parts, based on responses from the survey. Other planned events for next year include multiple Little Rock Scripture Study courses: "The Infancy Narratives" in Advent, "The Passion and Resurrection Narratives" in Lent, and "The Acts of the Apostles" after Easter 2020.

Adult Faith Formation Survey developments

- A series of articles about the survey have been published in the bulletin.
- Committee member Larry Bock attended the CFC June meeting to further discuss the survey results and plans for next steps. After reviewing the age and gender demographics of the survey takers, and how they obtained the survey, the group discussed the need to improve connections with parishioners under the age of 45 with particular attention to those under 30, and male parishioners. Many in these groups would be parents of children in religious education who may have difficulty juggling work and family obligations with the ability to attend faith formation programs.
- While the parish has many in-person programs that are appealing to other generations of parishioners who completed the survey, Larry recommended the committee consider tapping into the Formed.org online resource, which is like a Netflix of Catholic content, including educational study programs, topical talks, inspirational movies, and e-books. An annual subscription to make all content available to anyone in the parish with internet access is \$1,850 and an anonymous donor has offered to gift the full cost for up to two years.
- The Christian Formation Committee agreed to have a representative of Formed.org attend the committee meeting in September to make a presentation on this resource, and answer questions. The resource looks promising in that it would provide a way to connect with parishioners who want to deepen their faith but do not have time to attend Bible study or other programs. It also has content designed for all age groups.

Office of Religious Education

- We have received 376 registrations for 2019-20 religious education classes- 316 for summer classes and 60 for fall. Two students have registered for the pre-school program Stories of God's Love. Thirty four students have registered for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Session A begins June 10 and we are fully staffed with catechists and co-catechists for it. We continue recruiting catechists for sessions B and C later in the summer. We thank Bob Altmiller for converting the staff lunchroom and conference room back to a classroom for summer religious education use. The summer sessions will include service projects to benefit the Veteran's Resiliency Center in Middletown.
- The Religious Education Office offered two Baptism Facilitator training sessions in the last two weeks, after recruiting five new facilitators to join three current facilitators. New materials were presented to the laity for use in the initial parent session. A schedule has been created and we are happy to report facilitators are in place for all sessions scheduled through the end of the year.
- Our post-Baptism volunteers met in May and plan to do their first mailings to the families of newly baptized children in August.

Report for Hispanic Ministry

- Five children received First Holy Communion and three are preparing for Confirmation this coming fall. They are attending preparation through the Office of Religious Education.

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults

- We have two candidates so far for the program that will begin in September. Interviews have started.

New Business

Committee members agreed we need to improve attendance at our bimonthly meetings in the fall and will look at ways to do so, starting with reconsidering the meeting schedule.

- **Parish & Family Life – Update provided by Erin Marchlik**
 - An additional member has joined the committee, bringing the total to five
- **Social Concerns – Update provided by Tonie Vandenberg and Gary Dawson**
 - One member of the parish was confirmed at St. Margaret of Scotland
 - Attendance at the Spanish mass has not dropped since the mass time change
- **Building and Maintenance – No update**

Old business

- **Website – Update provided by Marty Brett**
 - Subcommittee has been formed and will meet over the summer
 - The committee will review the benefits of updating the website via custom configuration or using an outside vendor
 - Report will be presented to Pastoral Council in September or October
- **Active Shooter Policy and Parish Safety Committee – Update provided by Msgr. Kelley**
 - Met with Mike Connelly, the coordinator for the diocese
 - Continue to work on plan and costs

Closing prayer led by Gary Dawson.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Next meeting is at St. Joseph on September 10th at 7:00 PM

SEE BELOW FOR APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Pastoral Council committee representation for the year

Liturgy	Stephanie Szczerba and Deacon Feaster
Christian Formation	Dave Burns and Mary Anderson
Parish & Family Life	Erin Marchlik and Tom Kane
Social Concerns	Tonie Vandenberg and Gary Dawson
Building and Maintenance	Ed Holley

Appendix 2 - Opening and Closing Prayer 2019-2020

Council Member	Meeting
September	Mary Anderson
October	Marty Brett
November	Dave Burns
December	Gary Dawson
January	Ed Holley
February	Tom Kane
March	Erin Marchlik
April	Tony Puchowski
May	Stephanie Szczerba
June	Mary Anderson

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Kane
Secretary, Pastoral Council