

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

February 8, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Mark Tuttle, Terri Field, Fr. Jim McNulty, Elisabeth Johnston, Denise Brady, John Brady, Megan Wolschleger, Deacon Don Esler, Alex Mager, Lisa Smerdon (Jane DeRoo,) Joe Bertrand, Renee Billotto, Deb Beaman

Absentees: John Bodnar

- I. OPENING PRAYER – Joe
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES – Approved
- III. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS
- IV. FR. JIM’S COMMENTS - Brainstorm session on how we can get people *back to church* (Mass and community) including those who attend prior.
 - a. Send (short & sweet) survey to get a pulse on current Mass attendance habits. Focus on getting the information (reason why) before determining the strategy.
 - b. Send hard copy of the survey to school families and religious education families as “homework” for the students and parents.
 - c. Reevaluate the weekly emails – timing, format, subject line.
 - d. Prioritize parish events immediately following Easter because people often return or visit more than usual.
 - e. Send survey to CYO distribution list to get a pulse on what would get them to return to Mass and make a habit of it considering CYO Mass attendance success.
 - f. Share Fr. Jim video (keep it simple) explaining why it’s important to come to Mass. Focus on reflection points rather than instructions.
 - g. Encourage others to hear the scripture.
 - h. Recognize that it is difficult to break a habit and create a new habit.
 - i. Invite families to celebrate at Mass and then immediately following Mass
 - j. Consider starting a nursery during one of the weekend Masses (11 AM).
 - k. Eucharist & Euchre (tournament)
 - l. Recognize parents’ struggle worrying what others are thinking if their kids are not wearing masks in church or if their kids are coughing or just being kids.
 - m. Create “safe spaces” during Mass within the church like the chapel or parish hall.
 - n. Consider timing of a personal appeal if said during Mass.
 - o. Update Newburgh Rd. sign often with happenings in the church, school, CYO.
 - p. Incorporate Mass participation/roles/responsibilities into our student sacramental preparation requirements.
 - q. Get out into the surrounding community to meet people where they are rather than expecting them to meet us where we are (in church).
 - r. Hand out parish bulletin to Fish Fry attendees when they order food, which gives the person time to read the bulletin while waiting in car. Typically, people

receiving church bulletin are already coming to Mass. Fish Fry is opportunity to reach hundreds of people in the community who aren't regularly coming to church or receiving parish weekly emails. Coordinate with parish office to get additional copies of bulletin printed during each week of Lent. Confirm with parish office when bulletin is printed. – Megan

- s. Communicate that *All Are Welcome!*
 - t. Continue the spaghetti dinners, pizza dinners, and coffee & donuts following Masses provide welcoming environment to our parish community.
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Nothing new to report outside of committee's respective meeting minutes, which were previously shared with Parish Council members.
- a. Vicariate
 - b. Christian Service
 - c. Education
 - d. Evangelization
 - e. Seniors
 - f. Worship
 - g. Finance
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
- a. Update on Fish Fry – Fr. Jim and Megan (on behalf of CYO Board) discussed the pros and cons of both options – dine-in & drive-thru. Considering how well last year's drive-thru went operationally, financially, safely, and our ability to still able to serve people with a friendly face in the drive-thru, plus the current situation of higher Covid cases during these winter months, we mutually agreed the drive-thru option would be best for 2022 Fish Fry.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
- a. IT updates for the parish – Terri
 - i. Phone system update project meeting is scheduled for February 9th.
 - ii. Cybersecurity response protection request from AOD is scheduled for February 21st.
 - b. QR code inserted in the parish bulletin as of February 5th weekend. QR code is direct link to parish Online Giving website. Intent is to increase accessibility for parishioners and visitors alike.
 - i. Recommend making the code more visible to stand out in the bulletin.
 - ii. Finance Council to track Online Giving contributions since February 5th weekend to determine if QR code impacts contributions. – John
- VIII. March 8, 2022 MEETING OPENING & CLOSING PRAYER VOLUNTEERS
- a. Opening prayer – Renee
 - b. Closing prayer – Megan
- IX. CLOSING PRAYER – Mark