

## St. Edith Worship Commission Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2019

In Attendance: Fr. Jim McNulty, Linda Bodnar, Jane DeRoo, Mike Magoulick, Al Rivard, Thomas Rist, Heather Shina and Lisa Smerdon.

Father Jim McNulty opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:07 p.m. in the Parish Library.

The absence of Joe Rashid was excused, and Linda Bodnar shared his **Sacristan** report, received via email:

*The All Souls Day Mass, held on Sun, Oct 27, at 5pm was well attended. We counted approximately 150 people and I believe 37 families were represented. The Mass is beautiful and filled with music and praise. As we all know, when Fr. Jim and Heather sing a tear is brought to many eyes. Thanks to the Commission Members, the Resurrection Choir and all who participated in the set up for refreshments and clean up in the hall and for their time and contribution.*

*The Mass of Remembrance, Hope and Healing, held on Wed, Oct 30, 7pm, was attended by 25-30 people. We were not able to use the Chapel as we had planned as there was a CYO group of a couple hundred enthusiastic people in the Social Hall. It was felt that the speakers and noise would penetrate the Chapel, so we moved to the Church. As indicated above, the Mass is beautiful and filled with music and praise. As we all know, when Fr. Jim and Heather sing a tear is brought to many eyes. A special thanks to Linda Kramer and Justin from Maintenance for setting up and taking down the refreshments.*

**Servers:** Lisa Smerdon reported that she held Altar Server Training sessions on the last two Sundays. A total of four youngsters were trained, and all of them are signed up to serve this weekend. Two of the families have younger children who will also begin serving (after receiving First Holy Communion). Lisa attended the Religious Ed. Mass for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and was pleased to see children serving who have not been signing up to serve weekend Masses. There is a special needs child who would like to serve. Lisa is willing to guide the child through the Mass. There will be no more training sessions until after Christmas.

**Ushers:** Mike Magoulick reported that they just had the Pancake Breakfast. The ushers offered to support a Christmas party for the servers. Discussion followed. Lisa Smerdon noted that only a small percentage of the servers have attended such events in the past and feels bad that so few show up. Mike suggested they wait and do something in the spring/summer. Fr. Jim concurred that at Christmas time it is difficult to get participation.

**Lectors:** Linda Bodnar reported things are going well, though no one has yet volunteered for the Christmas Masses. She expressed appreciation for the addition to the Gathering Space of the stand for the crucifix and candles. She was told that Jim Vick constructed it. It was noted that some people feel that there are too many Prayers of the Faithful on many weekends. Linda suggested that Fr. Jim issue a reminder that when St. Edith School is closed due to weather, there will be no daily Mass.

**Art and Environment:** Jane DeRoo reported that planning for Advent and Christmas are well underway, and the schedule for decorating has been sent out. Jane will be away after December 31, and Bob and Cindy Coleman leave for holiday in early January. Jane will be

back in time for Lenten decorating. There was one volunteer to help with weekly flowers, however, flowers are not used as much now during the colder months.

**Parish Council:** Jane DeRoo reported that the Council met last night. In order to be transparent, the minutes from all commissions will be posted on the website. Hard copies will be made available for those who do not have web-access. The Mass attendance counts, as published in the bulletin, confirm that we are a growing parish. The Finance committee reported that at the moment we are above budget.

One of the parish goals includes engaging parishioners to participate in order that we progress as an evangelizing parish. To aid in the endeavor, the Council would like to conduct a parish Survey, to learn what the people really want to be offered. All of the commissions will have input on the survey. Elisabeth Johnston has spoken with a professor at the University of Michigan who teaches a Master's level course in Survey Methodology. It is possible that the design of our survey could be student project. Elisabeth Johnston, Megan Szczypka-Wolschleger, Geoff Turbiak, and John Brady are interested in participating in the project.

Jane asked what we, as the Worship Commission, would like to see included in the survey. Discussion followed. In December there should be a determination as to whether or not we will be a client for the class. Tom Rist inquired if there would be a cost to the parish for inclusion in the program. Jane replied that this program would be at no cost, while noting that there are companies that would provide the service for a fee.

**Adoration:** Tom Rist reported that Adoration is about the same. Benediction is going well, and people appreciate being able to receive Holy Communion. It seems that quite a few people come to adore, but do not sign in. There is oftentimes a gap at the dinner hour. Tom spoke to Georgene Wojciechowski about the possibility of school classes participating in Adoration. It might be possible after Christmas.

**EME's:** Al Rivard reported that he has trained 3 more EME's; they have served at other parishes. He again expressed concern that after the 8:30 Masses hosts have been found in the pews. Tom Rist asked if the ushers could be watchful in order to help curb this practice. Mike Magoullick said he would bring it up at the Ushers' meeting.

**Music Ministry:** Heather Shina reported that here are several new and returning Adult Choir members (4 sopranos, 1 alto, 1 tenor). One new parishioner/new choir member also plays the flute and clarinet. Shortening the length of rehearsals has worked well, resulting in better participation and a more focused experience. Mona Mason has found some great music for the concert.

Two new ringers have joined the Handbell Choir, which is preparing 6 pieces for the concert and two additional pieces for Christmas Masses. A ten-year-old child has also expressed interest in the Handbell choir. An experienced ringer has volunteered to serve as a substitute.

Anjanette Turbiak has volunteered her trumpet playing skills. Heather plans to incorporate that on special feast days, beginning with the Feast of Christ the King.

Heather met with Rick Abdoo and David Wigton about the organ. They are in the process of finalizing details as to what we want done for the organ. She will then obtain quotes from various sources. Lisa Smerdon noted that there have been fund-raisers at other parishes in

which one “bought a key” for \$200. Fr. Jim responded that it is the plan of the Financial Council to use the Capital Improvement Fund to cover the organ improvements.

Rita Douglas found the perfect song for Advent, “Make Room,” by Matt Maher. Heather shared a recording of the music with us. Heather is awaiting the arrival of the Christmas Concert flyer. The concert will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 3:30 p.m. Mike Magoulick asked how many ushers would be needed. Heather felt that three would be fine. The Resurrection Choir, while not performing as a separate unit, will be asked to join the other choirs in the group pieces, i.e. “sing-along.” This should enhance the feeling of unity.

The new songbook is still being developed.

There will be a 9 a.m. Mass on Thanksgiving with celebrant Fr. Jim Scheick.

**Fr. Jim’s Comments:** Fr. Jim reminded us that St. Edith will host an Advent Penance Service on December 21 at 1 p.m.

Fr. Jim noted that 9 a.m. Mass is cancelled on days when the school is closed due to weather. Other parish activities are not necessarily cancelled; the decision on cancellation of other events will be made at that time.

The Christmas Mass schedule will be that same as last year, with a simulcast in the Hall. Matthew Kelly’s book, Rediscover the Saints, will be this year’s gift to parishioners.

For Lent, Father wants to promote the “Best Lent Ever,” with Dynamic Catholic. The soup-suppers will also promote it.

#### **Other/Continuing Business:**

Tom Rist asked if we would have a meeting in December. The meeting will take place but might be rather short.

Mike Magoulick asked Heather if the ushers would need to handle the sound switch for the Christmas Masses. She replied “yes,” and for the concert as well.

Heather Shina raised the issue of the Concert Reception. Jane DeRoo said that Art & Environment could decorate but could not set everything up for the reception. Last year Colleen Misiak ordered cookies and there were also donations, an overabundance of food. Fr. Jim suggested we just limit it to cookies and punch. Jane did not know if Linda Kramer had anyone interested in helping with hospitality for the reception. There will be an announcement and bulletin notice seeking donations for the reception.

With no further business, the meeting concluded with the *Our Father* at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Bodnar*