

St. Edith Worship Commission Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2019

In Attendance: Fr. Jim McNulty, Linda Bodnar, Cindy Coleman, Jane DeRoo, Mike Magoulick, Joe Rashid, Thomas Rist, Heather Shina and Lisa Smerdon. The absence of Al Rivard was excused.

Father Jim McNulty opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:05 p.m. in the Parish Library.

**Adoration:** Tom Rist reported that Adoration is pretty much status quo. They have gained some adorers and lost some. The good news is that Fr. Jim has approved the distribution of Holy Communion at the Tuesday evening Benediction. There were 18 people present last night, and Tom expects that number will grow.

**Music Ministry:** Heather Shina reported that they are just back into rehearsal season. The Adult Choir will begin rehearsing in October, meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. Choir members had expressed a preference for a shorter, earlier rehearsal time. In November the rehearsals will run until 9 p.m., in preparation for Christmas.

Handbell rehearsals will begin in October, since some ringers are still traveling. Three ringers are not expected to return. One young lady, who has played before, will be joining the group. There is still an open position. Heather and Fr. Jim are trying to find ways to get more members in the Adult Choir, possibly some younger empty-nesters. Hopefully a choir member will speak at Mass to encourage new prospective choir members. Fr. Jim suggested that if we hear someone singing with a good voice at Mass, we should suggest they consider joining the choir. Heather noted that the choir is not for everyone, some people find it overwhelming.

Heather plans to hold intense rehearsals from October to December, then a break until the three months leading up to Easter.

Discussion followed.

Jane DeRoo commented that we are glad to have Heather back from her maternity leave.

Heather stated that she is in the process of ordering music. She will also be meeting again about the organ, getting recommendations in preparation for submitting a proposal to the Archdiocese. It was noted that expenditures in excess of \$25,000 require Archdiocesan approval. Tom Rist asked how much the organ will cost. Fr. Jim responded that he expects the cost to be about \$70,000.

Heather reported getting calls from parents asking about the Children's Choir.

The music Calendar for September is on the website. The October calendar is in progress. The Infant Loss and Infertility Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. on October 30; The Bereavement Mass will be held Sunday, October 27 at 5 p.m. Joe Rashid asked if it has ever been considered to combine the two Masses. Fr. Jim responded that it was not felt to be appropriate since they involve two different kinds of loss.

**Art and Environment:** Cindy Coleman reported that things are going well, with lots of flowers being obtained from parishioners' gardens. There have been lots of volunteers helping keep things up outside. Fr. Jim commented that the pond area looks much better. Lisa Smerdon said she was surprised to see that the pond had been filled in. Fr. Jim noted that maintaining the pond was a lot of work, and Jane DeRoo commented that the tarp always looked bad in the winter. Fr. Jim identified the statue as St. Anthony, noting the Franciscan habit.

Jane further commented that all of the mulch looks so nice. Cindy noted that there was a lot of good help this year.

Tom Rist asked about the status of the new carpeting. Fr. Jim said it would be coming in October. Heather Shina asked if carpeting would be installed on the organ platform, or perhaps wood like in the sanctuary. Discussion suggested that a change of flooring under the organ should probably be coordinated with replacement of the organ console.

**Sacristans:** Joe Rashid had two questions: When is the CYO Mass? And will the Bereavement Mass be held on All Souls' Day? The CYO Mass is tentatively set for 5 p.m. on October 6; Fr. Jim emailed CYO to confirm. Part of the concern is that coaches may want to serve as EME's. It was noted that the Bereavement Mass will be October 27. Joe asked if Art & Environment will handle the crosses and candles. They agreed to do so. Joe can/will order smaller candles for that evening.

**Servers:** Lisa Smerdon reported that in May she trained about a dozen new servers. Most of them have been serving regularly. Her goal is to have training sessions in September, October and November. Having the sessions more often with fewer children seems to work better. Lisa said she tries to be at the first Masses at which new servers serve, in order to prompt them if needed. She wondered if there are others who could help with prompting them. Discussion followed. Older servers are dropping out as

early as sixth grade, so they aren't able to help, and it is inadvisable to have too many different people "coaching," lest the servers be confused. Fr. Jim said that we all work together, and it all works out.

**Ushers:** Mike Magoulick reported that the Pancake Breakfast will be October 13. He asked when the Confirmation Mass will be, in order to place it on the Ushers' Event Calendar. Fr. Jim will email Mike with the date (after checking that it is indeed March 24).

**Lectors:** Linda Bodnar reported that one lector is on medical leave. Last week one new lector was trained; it was Matthew Brandon, who went through the RCIA program this past year. That brings the total number of active lectors on the roster to 26.

**Parish Council:** Jane DeRoo reported that the Council met last night with a picnic meeting. Focusing on goals, we need to strive to engage and keep people when they come for the sacraments. St. Edith will be participating in Wave Four of the Unleash the Gospel program. Jane asked if anyone would be interested in representing St. Edith at the Vicariate meetings which are held at St. Michael's on October 28, February 24 and June 1.

**Fr. Jim's Comments:** Fr. Jim shared copies of the "Woman at the Well" Gospel reading for Lent, which Linda Bodnar had broken down into "parts." It was agreed that some of the long Gospel readings in Lent would be read in that fashion, rather than having the priest read the passage in its entirety alone. Linda will prepare the Gospel stories of Lazarus and the "Man Born Blind" in the same manner. Lisa Smerdon noted that when the youth read the Passion on Good Friday it can be difficult to hear them, as they are sometimes too soft or too fast.

Fr. Jim said that he wants the teens to at least come to the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass on the first weekend of the month. Josh Kugler, our Youth and Young Adult Minister, is trying to get youth more involved, and is trying to get the parents to encourage their youth to attend Mass and Youth Group.

No theme for Advent has yet been determined. Fr. Jim admitted that he is thinking more about Lent.

Dynamic Catholic, a community, a movement, trying to meet the needs of parishes, will provide [Rediscover the Saints](#), the book which will be the parishioners gift this Christmas. It is not a biography of saints, rather, it deals with the charisms of the saints. Fr. Jim plans to do something through Dynamic Catholic for Lent as well.

Jane DeRoo commented that people like having a theme for the seasons and look forward to "the words." Discussion followed.

Jane further commented that they are trying to make Parish Council more visible on the website. It was suggested to put photographs of the newly baptized children in the bulletin. Fr. Jim commented that there have been situations in the past when people did not want their children's name or photos published. Permission would have to be obtained. There are a number of people who would probably be happy to take the pictures.

Fr. Jim would like to update the Worship Commission on the website. He also would like the minutes to be available there. Photographs of the Commission members and short biographies will be added to the site. He asked that we write bios containing the following information: 1) How are we connected to St. Edith (for how long?), 2) Something personal that others can identify with (married, children in the school, hobbies, etc.), 3) What do you like about St. Edith, and 4) Why you like being on the Worship Commission. Photographs may be taken at the next meeting, and Joe Rashid volunteered to collect the bios.

Jane DeRoo reported that at Parish Council there were favorable comments about the food collection baskets, though some feel that it has "lost its steam." Children leaving for the Liturgy of the Word at the 11:00 Mass may be a factor. Discussion followed and it was decided that for the time being, the food collection baskets will remain.

With no further business, the meeting concluded with the *Our Father* at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Bodnar*