

St. Edith Worship Commission Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2019

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

Prior to opening the meeting, photographs of the commission members were taken for the parish website.

Father Jim McNulty opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:14 p.m. in the Parish Library.

Sacristans: Joe Rashid reported that the sacristans are “doing what they do.”

Servers: Lisa Smerdon reported that she has submitted possible dates for server training to the office. She also shared that a catechist, Linda Fetter, had a student volunteer to serve at Mass on Monday. The young girl was excited to serve, and Lisa has the child’s contact information. Since the Monday Masses are only held once each month, Lisa will try to attend and help the servers, hopefully encouraging their families to participate.

Ushers: Mike Magoulick reported that the Pancake Breakfast will be this Sunday, October 13. He has received a request to again lay out the Lost & Found items. Jim Vick is believed to have handled that task in the past.

Lectors: Linda Bodnar reported that the schedule is out through January 19. Holydays have not been scheduled yet.

Parish Council: Jane DeRoo reported that the Council met last night. They welcomed new young adult members-at-large, Alex Mager and Elisabeth Johnston.

As an Eagle Scout project, one of the Atallah boys plans to erect a “Welcome Jesus” statue in the area where the gazebo had been.

In keeping with our goal of Christian Service, Steve Nacarato would like to see more activities to expand service in the community. Due to cuts in the Maintenance Staff, the building will now be locked at 8 p.m. during the week.

The New Dawn group has been experiencing a decrease in membership. After the first of the year they may reorganize as a new Senior Group, not limited to widows and widowers.

Some of those who work at the Pizza Dinners expressed that they were getting “burned out” And would like to take a few months off. Council opposed stopping the dinners, as they are seen as a community activity. New volunteers will be sought.

The Council would like to continue to unite the school and the church. There was discussion about the possibility of having the school involved in a weekend Mass, perhaps acknowledging their attendance at a particular Mass (5th graders, perhaps – both school and R.E.). Fr. Jim would like to see teens serve as lectors, etc. Lisa Smerdon noted that the servers tend to drop off after only a few years, not even remaining through their entire grade school years.

EME's: Al Rivard expressed concern that after the 8:30 Masses the last three Sundays, hosts have been found in the pews. It was not known where in the church this occurred. Fr. Jim advised that the EME's be reminded to watch for/observe consumption of the Holy Eucharist.

Adoration: Tom Rist reported that Adoration is about the same. It is difficult to get people to commit to a time during the day. Having Eucharist at Benediction has been well-received. The 1-2 p.m. time slot is especially hard to fill, though Joe Rashid noted that he has seen people there during that time; Tom would like the adorers to sign in, even if they have not committed to a time slot.

Tom commented that "The Church is the people." Inspired while writing his bio for the website, Tom wanted to acknowledge/appreciate all of the commission members and all that they do.

Heather Shina asked if any of the teachers bring their students to the chapel for Adoration. It would be a good idea, teaching the children the importance of visiting with Jesus.

Music Ministry: Heather Shina reported that Handbell choir rehearsals have begun. Three ringers did not return, though one who had been a sub has joined as a regular member. Two positions remain to be filled. Fr. Jim will mention that at Mass, and a ringer may speak at Mass in a few weeks to encourage new ringers.

Shortening the time for Adult Choir rehearsals (7-8:30 p.m., rather than 7-9) has pleased the choir members. Four ladies have joined the choir (1 alto, 3 sopranos), one of whom has returned after an 8-year hiatus. Mona Mason has found some nice music for the Christmas Concert, which will be held on December 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Heather has been working on scheduling the Handbell choir, but conflicts are making finding an appropriate time challenging.

The Resurrection Choir will have its annual luncheon on October 21 at Senate.

The gentleman from the Archdiocese came out to look at the organ, meet with Heather, and tell her what he thinks we need. Heather will meet with our organ tuner and some suppliers to obtain quotes for the improvements/repairs.

There have been problems with the recorder used to record Fr. Jim's homilies. Heather is working on obtaining a new one.

In Praise lost two members (Larry and Melissa). Ric is trying to get someone to fill Larry's absence.

Two big speakers which had been donated will be used by the Music Ensemble. Heather is glad that they will now "have a home."

Art and Environment: Cindy Coleman reported that she is ordering new Advent candles. They will be beeswax and should last at least three years.

Jane DeRoo and Cindy have been trying to get helpers for the weekly stuff. Initially reaching out to those who have helped with decorating in the past yielded only one affirmative response (Susan Wiska). An article in the bulletin will reach out to parishioners for help. Jane, Cindy and Angie Beharry (and maybe Susan) could divide up the work if they each had a helper, perhaps

only serving once each month. Lisa Smerdon said she had a possible contact for them; she will forward the information to Cindy.

Jane suggested that perhaps when someone is acknowledged for donating flowers at Mass that the donor could stand. Fr. Jim commented that he usually shares that information at the beginning of Mass when everyone is already standing.

The suggestion was received from Pat Motsinger that a "tree" on which people could put their prayers of thanksgiving might be a nice idea. She brought it up because, when making entries in the Prayer Petition Book, she often sees requests for help with problems. Cindy suggested the school could make the tree as part of the arts program. Jane thought this might just be a short-term thing. Following discussion, the commission is open to the idea, but notes that time to develop it is needed.

Jane noted that A&E continues to work with the "wedding ladies," trying to coordinate decorations with weddings' color schemes. So many brides have been grateful and pleased that they did not need to bring flowers to church. Heather Shina added that the Prayers of the Faithful need to be "...who WERE married this weekend," rather than "being married this weekend."

Fr. Jim's Comments: Fr. Jim announced that the theme for Advent will be: "Make Room for Jesus." Part of the concept is that we can make our Christmas preparations without them being completely commercial. Jane DeRoo said that we should promote Bambinelli Sunday better this year. It will be the Third Sunday of Advent, December 14,15.

The All Souls' Day Bereavement Mass will be October 27. Readings for the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene will be used.

Linda Bodnar suggested that the Infant Loss & Infertility Mass be held in the chapel, due to the historically low attendance.

Discussion followed about the receptions for those two Masses. The Gathering Space is adequate for the Infant Loss Mass, but the Hall, though large, might better suit the larger, older crowd at the Bereavement Mass. Linda Kramer from the RE department should set up for these events. It was noted that the Bereavement Mass will be at 5 p.m. on a Sunday evening. Since the doors are usually locked at 1 p.m., someone will have to open up the church. Those who help at funerals and wake services are expected to participate in the Mass and help the attendees.

St. Edith will host an Advent Penance Service on December 21 at 1 p.m. Ushers will be needed.

The Christmas Ornament Bereavement Gathering will take place in the chapel on November 30.

Heather Shina noted that the Immaculate Conception is not a holyday this year, as it falls on the second Sunday of Advent. The feast will be celebrated on Monday, December 9, but there will not be an evening Mass.

All Saints' Day, November 1, is on a Friday and there will be a 9 a.m. (school) Mass and an evening Mass at 7 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting concluded with the *Our Father* at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bodnar