

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2018

7:30 pm

Parish Library C 103

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
1. Prayer	John Piescik
2. Formation	Maria Maldonado
3. LED Proposal Presentation	Betsy Zolper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy audit• Only covered the church and lower basement under the Cassidy Activities Center.• Proposal from Catholic Energies• Replace the existing 2,480 lighting fixtures with 2,480 LEDs• Life expectancies raised from 10,000-25,000 hours to 25,000-50,000 hours (8 years)• Advantages in lower heat generation• Wattage on each bulb – Blended kW rate 10 cents per kWh. Lighting costs reduced from \$1,479 per month to \$543 per month (or roughly \$11,000 a year)• Installed cost: \$36,900 plus \$5,000 rebate from Dominion Power• The paperwork is estimated to take eight weeks• Roughly three years to pay off, then lower costs for the parish• Technology Subscription option – similar to rent to own• Only twenty fixtures being totally replaced• Does not include rectory• Can be compared to the lease versus ownership conundrum• Catholic Energies is a non-profit reaching towards church groups• Looking at HVAC and other items later, but the lighting issue can be considered the low hanging fruit	

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- St John Neumann lowered its costs by \$30K / year under these plans

4. School Update

Darcie Girmus

- Monthly Fellowship Assembly: Virtue of the Month (April): Listening
- Virtue of the Month (March): Responsibility
- Divine Mercy – chaplet of the Divine Mercy said
- Coding competition led by Ms Jeanne Bliss. Six students; two went to the Science & Engineering Festival in DC)
- Diocese Science Fair- 10 students
- Band/Choir to Hershey Park next month, part of an every other year event
- Rescheduled admission event will hopefully go well, as the previous days were cancelled by zero degrees whether and then a snow day,
- Evangelist program grant: five new I pad packages and a smart board (thanks to the Knights of Columbus)
- Auction coming up: proceeds to replace active boards
- All Diocese elementary schools are moving to trimesters, so three not four reporting periods. This also saves money on report cards
- Like St Mark Catholic School on Facebook – you might have to dig a little to find our St Mark with the high number of other St Marks around the country
- Father's day went well
- Second Graders led the rosary before the celebration mass. Not only a good prayer, it helped with lowering the side chatter in the pews
- There are some small modifications to the girls uniform: Navy blue shirts are allowed; points on collar to be more standardized
- The Lost and found is unbelievably full
- Minimal teacher turnover net year
- New car pool system with car id numbers and broadcasting numbers on smart boards is a success from all fronts. Movement of the

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students is quicker; it saves time for teachers, and is generally more efficient. The HOV-5 is really going well.

5. Review of Minutes / Action Items

Motion to approve March minutes made, seconded, and approved for posting.

6. Finance

Karen Asta

- LED/Light Discussion
- Becker and Modesto: Capital Improvement Plan
 - Sewer Ejection Pump: the machine is 53 years old and will require \$36K to replace.
 - Rectory Boiler: the machinery is designed to last for 25 years. Our unit is 23 years old.
 - Church Boiler #1: another 53 year old machine, but this one will cost \$45K to replace
 - Parking Lot
 - Grounds Wooden Fence: included in the proffers to build the CFC. The cost here can be broken up as sections can be replaced at different times.
 - Church Flooring: Section near the Holy Water font \$84K
- New chairs in the Chapel have arrived
- Collection Income
- Tithing committee did not meet due to snow; six applicants are being discussed this week
- Auction preliminaries underway
- Possibility of addition to the finance committee.
- Asta added to agenda

7. PTPO Update

Jim Hathaway

Skipped

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8. Commission Reports: (Major Highlights)

Community Service

Kelly Boyle for Helen Cascio

- Lots of food items being donated and delivered
- Amazed at how much is being done and how much is required to run it.

Religious Education

Walter Gawlak

- Skipped

Community Growth

Cris Revaz

- Care for Our Common Home: April 22nd tour of the milky way in the activity center 7pm (Earth day)
- Newcomers committee to attend luncheon 1 pm April 22nd in the Activity center
- Pastoral Care team: There is a St Mark parishioner, aged 104, living with the grand kids
- Remembrance Ministry and Deacon John are in the formation stages of creating a nurturing aid/bereavement group to help recent widows
- Welcoming Committee Desk needs new chair – spreading word more broadly. Needs to have coordinator.

Worship

Bob Lemiux

- Easter went well
- Thanks for all the participants and volunteers
- The old Chapel chairs: most are being donated to other parishes, a few are being kept
- New Eucharistic ministers (20 on sabbatical); some gaps in the schedule
- On the question of who should receive the Eucharist, Ministers are to side on the side of charity. They are not the Eucharistic police.

Youth

Jim Barrett

- Skipped

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9. Old Business

Council

- Where does the information go?

10. New Business

Council

- Volunteer appreciation dinner (April 28)
- Those who want to help have contact numbers in email
- Donut Sunday this Sunday
- Newcomers luncheon
- LED lights
- Minutes that are on line. Could reports be put on as attachments? Will it cause problems as space is limited and older material will be taken out? Simplified if it can be made into one document.
- Is it possible to post items such as “500 sandwiches made on Second Sunday Sustenance” for the people to see? It is on the board near the activity center and in the bulletin.

11. Eyes and Ears

Council/Father Pat

- Memorial garden: is there a rule on the piles of rocks? The general condition is not nice. Is there a limitation on the items left, such as glass vessels, flowers, or medals. The rocks are oftentimes a means of paying respect to those being visited. As far as the other materials being left, caution must be heeded. There are limits on posting signs or creating criteria for what is and is not allowed.
- Gala: March Mainline article forgot to say where and when. The bulletin did the same thing. The pink flyer did not have the date. This was a series of unfortunate events. The website did have the information, but better care will be taken in the future.
- Stations of the Cross: One parishioner commented that the readings were great.
- Palm Sunday deliverance: question on petitions “Deliver us from American Privilege” and “Save us from the politicization of religion”. Part of the scrutiny of the elect and the candidates; trying to avoid

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looking down at others because we are American. There is a bulletin talking about all the other concerns

- Palms from Palm Sunday: is it possible to recycle them for the ashes used on Ash Wednesday? Remaining palms are used in this exact method. Will consider leaving a donation area for parishioners to contribute their palms.

Points from Father Pat

- Cars in parking lot being left overnight: please inform Father Pat to avoid problems. People do practice “See Something, Say Something,” so avoid any confusion by relaying the information.
- The Finance Council is doing the budgeting. They are trying to hold to a zero growth scenario.
- One of the biggest items on the budget is salaries. While the aggregate is available, the individual salaries are confidential. Teachers are making a sacrifice as they are being paid roughly 80% of a comparable teacher in Fairfax County.
- Fake email (with the misspelling of the name) requesting I-tunes card and other funds for parish is going around. Somehow someone got a partial list of the parishioners and tried this scam. A second fake email is being sent around.

12. Closing Prayer

Father Pat

Meeting Ends at 9:30pm; Next Meeting: May 10, 2018

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Commission Reports: Community Service

- Service Commission
- Report for April, 2018 - Pastoral Council Meeting

ESL ministry: *ST. MARK* ESL recently completed its spring registration period and will be starting up the Spring sessions beginning tomorrow, Tuesday April 10th, with 2 more days of Registration. We will be serving nearly 100 people from all over the world in multiple different English proficiency levels, Conversation classes and Citizenship preparation classes. In addition, there will be a volunteer/teacher training “boot camp” this Saturday in the *ST. MARK* CFC for any of our teachers who would like a boost in their teaching skills.

Second Sunday Sustenance Ministry: continues to make an average of 500 sandwiches each month which is given to the Lamb Center and Food for Others. We are grateful for the continued and dedicated interest in our ministry.

Gift of Peace Ministry: We continue to provide meals for the Reston Homeless shelter on the first Thursday of every month. Volunteers prepare a chicken and rice meal, provide juices, fruits and canned goods.

Hot Meals Ministry: The *ST. MARK* Hot Meals team continues to prepare and deliver 100+ meals every 4th Monday of the Odd months, feeding our homeless community in the Fairfax area. There are 4 designated areas along Lee Highway that folks show up to receive this meal.

Blood Drive Ministry: Our April Blood Drive was a success! With this Drive combined with our recent Advent Blood Drive in December, we were able to collect over 60 pints of much needed blood for INOVA.

McDowell County Ministry: Our shed is completely full and volunteers will be packing the truck of much needed furniture and household goods, this Friday, April 13th. The next day, two of our volunteers will make the full day/night trip to West Va. to deliver these items to folks very much in need.

Christ House Ministry: *ST. MARK* volunteers continue to provide monthly meals to the DC Christ House every 3rd Sunday.

Hypothermia Shelter: Back in mid-March, our Hypothermia team completed its second week long commitment to help a local church housing the homeless during the cold season. *ST. MARK* volunteers teamed up with the folks at 1st Baptist in Fairfax to care for many, many who came to seek shelter. This followed our annual helping of *St. John Neumann* in January.

Religious Education

Adult Faith Formation Report – April 2018

RCIA: The Easter Vigil was awesome and we are now in the period of Mystagogy. Inquiry has started for 3 families with children over the age of 6 seeking Baptism. Adult Inquiry will begin next month.

Baptisms: There are 8 Baptisms Scheduled for Sunday, April 15 at 1:30pm.

Adult Faith Formation: The Bible study groups are finishing up this month and will start again in the fall. Ellen Murphy and Jack Smith are the presenters in April for our Sunday Morning Program. The last Sunday RE Session is April 29 (parent breakfast and program evaluation).
Sunday, April 8 – *Spiritual Decluttering* (Ellen Murphy)
Sunday April 15 – *Living Wholeheartedly in a Half-Hearted World* (Ellen Murphy)
Sunday, April 22 – A Discussion of the poem *Desiderata* as seen through the lens of parenting.

Community Growth

April 2018 Community Growth Activities Report (March - April '18)

Always Our Children: No report received

Bakers for Funerals: We have had one funeral reception to bake for in April.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CFOCH) CCH is hosting Dr. de Mello who will give a "Tour of the Milky Way" on April 22nd at 7 pm. The slideshow will depict the wonders of God's created universe and our place within it which is appropriate on Earth Day. CCH has created bulletin spots that are based on Pope Francis' statements in *Laudato Si'* and are meant to inspire parishioners to take a deeper look at their relationship with creation. CCH has presented LED lighting proposal to Fr. Pat. Catholic Energies will present to Finance Council April 10 and CCH will present to Parish Council at the April meeting.

Christians in Commerce: The NoVA Men's Chapter of CIC continues to meet every Wednesday in the Choir Room at 0645 (Fellowship & Vittles) followed Prayer, Praise Teaching & Sharing at 0700. The meeting ends at 0800.

Cursillo: Meets every Tuesday 12:30-1:30 in Jean Lupinacci's office for those who have already made a weekend. The next Cursillo weekends are in the Spring of 2018: Women's weekend: April 12-15 at San Damiano Contact Jean or Bill Grossman. To set up, cook and serve food please go to the Arlington Cursillo website: <http://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/weekend-archives/>

Evangelization Committee: This year for lent, we resurrected Soup and Stations. On each Friday in Lent different parish organizations provided crock pots of meatless soup and salad with bread donated by Great Harvest Bread. Parishioners gathered in the Activities Center for soup and salad and then proceeded to the church for stations. The organizations involved were Knights of Columbus, Rosary Group, M&M Senior group, Respect Life and Small Communities of Faith. They were all well attended, and happily, more people came to Stations of the Cross than usual.

Funeral Receptions: No report received.

Knights of Columbus: No report received.

Le Cercle Francais: Continues to meet every Tuesday and converse en Francais.

Movie Night: On April 20th Family Night Movie will feature Ferdinand. Ice cream social at 6:30 with movie at 7:00.

Newcomers Committee: Our next Newcomers Luncheon will be on Sunday, April 22nd at 1:00 in the Activities Center. We would love to have any Pastoral Council members attend who are available!

Pastoral Care Team (PACT): The Pastoral Care Team continues to visit our homebound parishioners and those who are homebound at Sunrise Retirement Home and the Virginian Retirement Home. We just learned of a recently registered Parishioner who is homebound. She is 104 years old and now lives with her grandchildren in our Parish boundaries. The PACT ministers who have visited with her say that she is so sweet. So, the quick blurb news is that we have a 104 year old Parishioner in our midst!!

Peace and Justice Committee: The Peace and Justice Committee will be sponsoring a presentation entitled "Human Trafficking in Northern Virginia: Awareness, Prevention, Intervention, and Restoration of Victims," a 30 minute interactive presentation with the audience followed by questions. This will be on April 18th at 7 pm in the Activities Center. Our speaker is William Walker. Mr. Walker is a Business Development and Marketing consultant to organizations in the Washington DC region, including Federal Government contractors. In 2009, his interest in Human Trafficking developed when a friend introduced him to the International Justice Mission, an international organization founded to combat human trafficking worldwide. Description of the event: "Northern Virginia has one of the highest incidents of sex trafficking in the country. All children (from upper income to low income families) are at risk to sex trafficking by predators. The purpose of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative (NOVA HTI), a faith based 501c3 nonprofit organization, is to increase public awareness of human trafficking (sex and labor) and to intervene, minister, and restore its victims. NOVA HTI will present information primarily on sex trafficking and will share opportunities how St. Marks attendees can participate in efforts to combat sex trafficking in Northern Virginia."

Prayer Shawl Ministry: We continue our shawl works. You might remind the members that blessed shawls are located outside the office for giving to those who are ill or grieving. Please sign the name of the recipient so we can remember them in our prayers. We would welcome new members to our afternoon and evening groups. Both held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Praying College Moms: No report received.

Pro-Life Committee: The Pro-Life group finished the 40 Days for Life. Father Paul prayed with us on 2 occasions. The Mass of Remembrance for the Unborn will be held on Wednesday, April 11. This mass commemorates all children who died before being born or shortly after.

Remembrance Ministry: The Remembrance Ministry is part of a team brought together by Deacon John Allen to develop ideas and recommendations for developing a ministry for supporting those who have experienced loss and grief because of the death of a loved one. The Remembrance Ministry continues to remember those who have lost loved ones by sending cards and notes on behalf of the St. Mark community.

There is also a Bereavement group that is headed by Deacon John Allen that wants to supplement our current Remembrance ministry in some way. This is still in the beginning stages. The Remembrance group has been doing a great job with the annual Remembrance Mass in November and writing notes of condolence to family members of the deceased. The Bereavement group wants to help that void of helping the recent Widow get through those early moments of losing a long time companion. How they do that is what they are planning on, at the moment.

Senior Ministry (M&Ms): The M&Ms had a mini-celebration for Fr. Pat's 70th birthday at the coffee on the 4th. We collected signatures and good wishes from many M&Ms and were able to send Father and 3 golfing buddies to Potomac Shores Golf Club. Also on the 4th Deacon Allen completed his presentation of St. Mark. Interesting talk that helps to understand the gospel readings during this cycle. We will have a presentation by the Arlington Ladies, from Arlington National Cemetery, at our next pot luck luncheon on the 18th. We have rescheduled our State Dept. tour and lunch to April 25th. We had a successful St. Patrick's Day party on the 3/14. Our meals were the same as last year with a choice of Corned Beef and Cabbage or Guinness Stew. The M&Ms also hosted one of the Soup and Stations meals on 3/9.

Small Communities of Faith: No report received

Welcome and Information Desk: A Chairperson is still needed to help recruit new volunteers and maintain the weekly schedule. We still have openings at all Masses. Volunteers rotate on a weekly basis throughout each month.

EASTER EGG HUNT!



Worship

Youth