

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2019
7:30 pm
Parish Library C103

1. Prayer Sean Moynihan
2. Formation Bob Lemieux
3. Review of Minutes
 - a. November minutes motion to accept made, seconded, and approved
 - b. February minutes motion to accept made, seconded, and approved
4. School Update: Teacher for Darcie Girmus
 - a. New tradition: A school basketball tournament with
 - i. The 5th grade winner vs the 6th grade winner
 - ii. The 7th grade winner vs the 8th grade winner
 - b. Earned a dress down day as a reward for positive peer pressure program to focus on the positive behavior
 - c. There are now uniforms for preschool, just like the kindergarten ones but smaller
 - d. March 29: Lion Laps to raise money for charity
 - e. The 5th grade will graduate from the Vienna Police Department's DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program next week.
 - f. Field trip time, including the 6th grade going on the Potomac River as part of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for an environmental awareness and impact cruise.
 - g. Clubs – clay sculpting, doodling, robotics, and mindfulness.
 - h. CYO started volleyball for St Mark or RE girls
5. PTPO Update: Cathy Abi-Khattar
 - a. Lion Laps
 - i. \$25,000 is the stated goal
 1. Fees take about 5%,
 2. Donation goal is over \$20,000.
 - ii. Laps will be run in the back parking lot:
 - iii. DJ will be playing age appropriate music
 - iv. Tech orientation of the goal is to replace 1/3 of the electronic boards

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- v. Prizes for the participants range from lego kits to american girl items to gift cards to pizza parties for the class
 - vi. Mini Lion Laps will be run for the preschool students
- b. A megaserver that church and school use is under consideration
- c. New PTPO board will be installed in April, most of the existing board will be replaced as they face term limitations

6. Finance: Sean Moynihan

- a. Meeting held on Tuesday
- b. 2018 Mass attendance is below the 2015 attendance
- c. Collections are similarly down
- d. Expenses, however, are also lower due to lower attendance
- e. 25 students are leaving the school (not due to graduation)
 - i. Economic reasons (to public schools)
 - ii. Historically, some leave during the 5th or 6th grade but come back during the 7th
- f. Possibility of reminders to people to make contributions/bequests to the church in their wills

7. Commission Reports (Major Highlights)

- a. Community Service: Mouse for George McAndrews
 - i. Blood drive on 31st
 - ii. ESL ended with 89 learners
 - iii. Spring ESL registration is upcoming
- b. Religious Education: Walter Gawlak
 - i. New ways of involvement: Tea with parents, grandparents, students, and children
 - ii. Confirmation considered the end of faith education: is there a way of bringing the high schoolers back for something
 - iii. Boys Retreat: concerns have died down, all candidates went, no problem
 - iv. Adult Formation: let Jean know if there is some topic that would draw you into an event. It is at 9:30, and everyone is invited.
- c. Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - i. Four new ministries
 - 1. St. Mark Bereavement Ministry

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2. Ecumenical Bereavement Ministry through the Becky Love Foundation: designed for adults (16 or older) who have lost a loved one.
 3. Evangelist Ministry
 4. Ministry for MOMS
 - a. Dial in being worked out
 - b. Growing by both word of mouth and by Facebook
 - ii. Movie Nights (on hiatus for Lent)
 - iii. Praying College Moms retreat
 - iv. Cathy Right and Sue Heard to gather folks to staff welcome desk
- d. Worship: Bob Lemieux
- i. Day of Reflection
 1. 100 attendees
 2. Now an annual event, it may become more frequent if demand continues to increase
 - ii. Lent
 1. Easter planning
 - a. Confirmation retreats this week
 - b. Healing Service Friday
 - iii. Feast of Corpus Christi (June 23, 2019)
 1. Induction of new Eucharistic ministers – submit names of potential EMs by end of this month
 2. Those on sabbatical will be returning to active status if desired
 3. Substitutes situation under discussion
- e. Youth: Elizabeth Peters for Kevin Flores
- i. Looking for new head of commission
 - ii. Junior High Update: successful ski trip with OLGC (49 students)
 - iii. Confirmation retreat underway (boys this weekend, girls next weekend)
 - iv. High School work camp
 1. Mulch fundraiser

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2. With only 10 kids, service will be pick up only

v. After Mass activities planned

vi. College night coming up

vii. There is an interest in restarting the young adults ministry, including the Facebook page

8. Old Business:

a. Nancy Novelly's proposal:

i. Removal of pews for bell choir and stroller/wheelchair parking

ii. Relocation of information booth, pastoral council schedule for manning the booth

iii. Set up family friendly area for children

iv. Set up video monitor, establish committee to research this

v. Replacement/abandonment of signs – barricade. Repurposing of signs? (Not in questions)

b. Plans

i. Options

1. Survey

2. Have council members ask 20 persons about how they feel about it

3. Have commissions ask the 20 persons

4. Have ushers ask the 20 persons

ii. Additional studies needed

1. Window locations

2. Annunciator location

3. Feasibility requirements and costs

4. Buy in from people in Narthex

5. Where does the nativity go during Christmas?

iii. Standardization of questions

1. Write questions to specific areas

2. Try yes/nos

3. Ingress/Egress if strollers in the v's

4. Usher training

iv. Only eight people get to watch video screen?

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- v. Is it worth it? Where is the money coming from?
 - vi. Questions to be researched will be assigned by Karen
- c. School budget question
- i. Sean talked with Darcie
 - ii. All tuition to salaries
 - iii. You get what you pay for

9. New Business

- a. Outreach: potential conference call amongst Pastoral Council
- i. Bulletin Board
 - 1. Update needed
 - 2. Send headshots to Crystal
 - ii. Badges
 - 1. Please wear
 - 2. Greetings
 - a. At the door?
 - b. At a table
 - i. New location
 - ii. Information booth
 - c. Comment box
 - iii. Parish Website
 - 1. Pastoral Council minutes need to be kept updated and made easier to find
 - 2. Electronic bios and photos could be posted and made easier to find
 - a. Interviews?
 - b. Contact information?
- b. Lenten Soup Suppers, Donut Sundays
- i. Pastoral Council available to show up lead/facilitate
 - 1. Scheduled to help Pro-Life Committee with Soup Supper on April 12

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- ii. Donut Sunday
 - 1. Coverage problems
 - 2. Good outreach
- iii. Newcomers Luncheon
 - 1. Council members should attend on April 28 (1st Sunday after Easter) at 1 pm

10. Eyes and Ears.

a. Lighting

i. Brown Extralight meeting with Finance and Facilities

- 1. Phased analysis
- 2. Upgrade sanctuary
 - a. Strip lights over altar difficult to maintain
 - i. New fixtures
 - ii. LEDs
 - b. Incandescent being removed (Pendants)
- 3. Option 1: Keep lighting about the same
 - a. Some energy savings
 - b. Little bit brighter
- 4. Option 2: Change environment
 - a. Omnidirectional lightings – back corners, walls better lit
 - b. Seven to eight times more expensive
 - c. May save money over time, with details being worked up
- 5. Mike willing to make presentations
- 6. Parking Lot secondary

b. Is there a possibility for speech to text for deaf parishioners?

- i. Another project
- ii. Cost
- iii. System interface between our systems and his handheld devices

c. RE class – Wednesday 8th graders wondering why Sunday has snacks and Wednesday does not. Will talk to Ana Lisa. (Note: there is not supposed to be food in the classrooms).

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- d. Intercessions: not tied to our youth's problems, needs, and issues. Bob will bring back to Worship Commission. There are guidelines, but will be addressed.

11. Father Pat

- a. Four things in Nancy's proposal: stand in the northex and watch. See who is going to be affected. This would be sea change to the parish, as the narthex will have a direct effect on the entire parish.
- b. People's opinion on sexual assault problem. What are we really? Pray. Come for the Eucharist, not the priest.

12. Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting Concludes at 9:35pm

Next Meeting: April 4th, 2019

Commission Reports:

Community Service

TO: ST. MARK PASTORAL COUNCIL

**FROM: GEORGE McANDREWS
SERVICE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

DATE: MARCH 12, 2019

RE: SERVICE MINISTRY REPORT FOR MARCH 2019 MEETING

Adoption Ministry: No activity.

Baking for Funerals Ministry: Since the start of 2019, the ministry prepared baked goods for one funeral.

Blood Drive: The parish will host a blood drive on Sunday, March 31, in the Cassidy Activities Center.

English as a Second Language (ESL): For the Winter term (January 22 to March 14), ESL has 89 adult learners. The hale from thirty different countries. At mid-term, thirty students received perfect attendance awards. A student in the Citizenship Class passed her U.S. naturalization interview in late February, and will be sworn in as a U.S. citizen later this year.

ESL will conduct Spring term registration on April 2 and 4. The Spring term runs April 9 through June 6.

Gift of Peace: The Gift of Peace delivers food donated by parishioners for a monthly meal at the Embry Rucker Family Shelter in Reston. There were food deliveries on February 7 and March 7.

Giving Tree: No activity

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Hot Meals Team (FACETS) / Hypothermia Shelter Program: This ministry supported Saint John Neumann's hypothermia shelter during the week of January 19-26, 2019, by providing sandwiches, cookies and fruit for lunches, as well as clothing collected during the Thanksgiving clothing drive. The Shelter housed an average of seventy persons per night that week. Twenty-five parishioners from St. Mark volunteered during that week.

On January 28, they served 77 meals to 24 individuals. They are next scheduled to serve meals on March 25.

Ann Ramish, who has coordinated this ministry for many years, is turning over the reins to Carol Dieterle.

Matthew 25: This ministry is collecting goods for FamilyPASS, a program in Northern Virginia that works with families to prevent homelessness. They will be collecting canned food, dry goods and cleaning products.

McDowell County: The ministry is collecting goods for its first Spring 2019 trip. That trip will occur in late March or early April 2019.

Social Action Linking Together (SALT): Attached is John Horejsi's summary of SALT's efforts during the 2019 session of Virginia's General Assembly.

Thanksgiving Clothing Drive: No activity. There will be no activity until July or August 2019.

Religious Education

Mother-daughter Tea

There will be a mother-daughter tea on May 19, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the CAC. The hope is to grow this tea into a tea and speaker series. We want this first event to be a time for people to socialize and build community. The tea is for mothers, daughters, grandmothers, and godmothers.

High School Religious Education

Ana Lisa is in dialogue with Kevin Flores and Juliana Heitz to consider holding one or two summer classes for high schoolers. One class would be using the Alpha program. The second option would be a book club using the works of C.S. Lewis.

Vacation Bible School

The theme for this year is Roar. Ana Lisa continues to seek volunteers. If anyone on the Council knows of any candidates, please send them her way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15, 16 and 17 Boys CONFIRMATION Retreat
March 22, 23 and 24 Girls CONFIRMATION Retreat

Adult Faith Formation March 2019

Baptisms: There were six children Baptized by Deacon John on February 17 at 1:30pm. There are no Baptisms during LENT. We are re-building the Baptism Catechist team. Margie and Paul Lavigne just stepped down after 31 years of service.

RCIA: The Catechumens became the Elect on Sunday, March 10 at the Rite of Election with Bishop Burbidge. The Penitential Rite for Candidates will be on Sunday, March 17 and the three Scrutinies for the Elect will take place on the following three weekends.

Adult Faith Formation: The Tuesday morning group is finishing up *The Gospel of John/Johannine Letters* and starting Bishop Barron's *Mystery of God* study on March 19. The Friday morning group re-started on March 8 to finish John.

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Sunday Morning Program: In March/April parishioner Jack Smith is leading three sessions on “Gratitude, Wonder and the Epistle of James.” Dr. Brian Doyle from Marymount is leading two sessions in March on “Understanding how to Read Scripture.” Part I on March 3 was very well received.

Community Growth

February 2019 Community Growth Activities Report

Always Our Children: No March update. Meetings are every 2nd Monday evening of the odd months.

Bakers for Funerals: No March update.

***St .Mark Bereavement Ministry:** No March update. Deacon John Allen

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) – Invitation to the Little Way – Making Creation Whole and Care for Creation article published in Maneline. CCH co-sponsored Doughnut Sunday with Small Communities of Faith. Used china coffee cups to minimize waste. Coordinating with school on “Reducing your Carbon Footprint” project. Lighting assessment of church facilities and school completed 3/13 with Mike Mayer of Xtralight. Mike will present 45 minute in-depth presentation in the coming weeks. Date TBD. Xtralight provided lighting upgrades at St. Leo’s and St. Catherine of Siena.

Christians in Commerce (CIC): No March update. The NoVA Men’s Chapter of CIC continues to meet every Wednesday in the Choir Room at 0645 (Fellowship & Vittles) followed by Prayer, Praise Teaching & Sharing from 7-8 am.

Cursillo: No March update. Meets every Tuesday 12:30-1:30 in Jean Lupinacci’s office for those who have already made a weekend. <http://www.arlingtoncursillo.org>

***Ecumenical Bereavement Ministry through the Becky Love Foundation:** The Becky Love Foundation was founded in 2013 after the death by suicide by Sarah Kirk’s daughter, Becky Love. Becky is interred at St. Mark. The foundation is sponsoring a free grief support group at St. Mark, in partnership with Kelly Many, from Fairfax Family Counseling. Objective is to reach out to adults (16+) who have lost a loved one, and want help making their way forward. Here is the link to website, and the Grief Group page, <https://www.beckylovefoundation.org/grief-group>. See attached flyer

***Evangelist Ministry:** No March update. Jerry Belt

Funeral Receptions: No March update.

Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council): No March update.

Le Cercle Francais: No March update. Continues to meet every Tuesday from 10 am -12 and converse en Francais.

***Ministry for MOMS:** Katie Gruters. We held our first monthly meeting in February and have another one scheduled for March 30th at 9:00. We will begin Sterling Jaquith's study for Catholic women based on the book of James and life of Teresa of Avila. With minimal advertising, ten mothers attended our first event, and 22 have connected with the ministry on our Facebook page, where the exchange of all things "Catholic moms" has begun to flow. Mothers

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expressed their excitement for a place to connect with one another at our first meeting, and we look forward to growing and serving one another and the greater parish community in the future

Movie Night: On Feb 8th, we showed the delightful film Peter Rabbit. Some 120 adults and children enjoyed the ice cream social, popcorn and of course, the film. Next movie night will be after Lent. Five weeks of Soup and Salads will be taking the place of movie night, starting March 15th, and continuing through April 12th, followed immediately by the Stations of the Cross.

Newcomers Committee: No March update.

Pastoral Care Team (PACT): We are scheduled to visit the folks at Sunrise Retirement Home through May 2019, and currently bring the Eucharist to 9 homebound parishioners and 1 who comes during the week to receive in the Chapel.

Peace and Justice Committee (PJC): No March update.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: We continue to serve the homeless with hats and scarves and those ill and grieving with shawls.

Praying College Moms (PCM): On February 16, twenty-two Praying College Moms gathered at Mount Tabor Retreat House in Vienna for mass with Father Bill Quigley. Afterwards they were led into contemplative prayer by Frances Chamberlin and Maribeth Harper, the author of the PCM book, "...And So We Pray: A Guidance for Moms with College Age Young Adults." This was followed by small and large group discussions, and the retreat ended with adoration of the Eucharist. On March 5, the PCM Executive Board and Advisors will hold their quarterly dinner meeting.

Pro-Life Committee: Gosnell Movie was shown on Feb. 24 in the Activities Center fifty people attended. March for Life - 34 people rode the bus to March for Life. The bus cost \$1,000. Suggested we find an alternative next year possibly renting 15 passenger vans or going by Metro. \$402.00 was collected from the people taking the bus. Next year the March for Life will be on January 24, 2020. 40 Days for Life March 6 to April 14. March for Life on Richmond- April 3, 2019 Carpools will be set up for anyone who wishes to attend. Bishop Burbidge will say the 7 AM mass at St. Thomas More Cathedral.

Remembrance Ministry: No March update.

Senior Ministry (M&Ms): The M&Ms hosted a pancake breakfast on Shrove Tuesday with Fr. Tuck giving a talk on sinners and saints in preparation for lent. Our annual St. Patrick luncheon is on the 13th at Auld Shebeen. Pat Garvey will entertain us with his banjo music of Irish Ballads. On the 15th we are touring the Library of Congress and the Capitol with lunch in the cafeteria before heading back to Vienna. We are hosting the soup and stations on the 29th of March.

Small Communities of Faith: Involved in several projects.

1. The Small Communities of Faith are hosting Donut Sunday on March 10th.
2. The Small Communities of Faith are inviting members of the parish to "Do Something for Lent throughout the weekend of March 9-10.

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3. The Small Communities of Faith are supporting the Inner Healing Lenten Retreat that is being offered on March 15-16.

Welcome and Information Desk: Susan Heard and Cathy Wright, St. Mark teachers, are working together to resurrect a volunteer base to “man” the desk on weekends and to come up with other ideas, for the Narthex area, to make it more welcoming, especially with the young families/kids that occupy that space during Masses.

*New ministry

Worship

Worship Commission (WC) Report –2019

Liturgy Day of Reflection. The Liturgy Day of Reflection topic was The Eucharistic Prayer: The Greatest Prayer We Pray as Catholics. This event took place Saturday, February 23, 0900-1200, in the Cassidy Activities Center, with almost 100 attendees. This was so well received that the Worship Commission is considering how to make the Liturgy Day of Reflection a more frequent – perhaps quarterly - event. WC members thought this type event will help Parishioners better understand and continue to grow in their Faith.

Lent/Easter Planning. The Worship Commission is well into planning the myriad liturgies taking place for the 40 days to include church decorations, Stations of the Cross, Penitential Rites and Scrutinies, Penance Service and music. Of note: There will be Lenten Retreat March 15-16 which includes Praise and Worship, Mass, music, Adoration and a healing service. The Liturgy planners will meet in April to finalize the Triduum planning.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion (EMHC). Please submit EMHC nominations to Bob Lemieux, Denise Argote or Nancy Novelly by 31 March so the Parish Office can process the names for Fr. Pat’s approval. The Diocese has not yet scheduled training dates; however, Commissioning will take place during Corpus Christi on 22-23 June.

Youth

(Needs to be attached)

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