

**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2020**  
**6:00 pm**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING via Zoom**

Prayer Betsy Zolper

Formation Sarah Kirk

Review of Minutes

- October minutes motioned, seconded, and passed

School Update: Kimberly Parker

- School enrollment is now at 370 students, with a new 4th grader whose family just moved into the neighborhood
- Planning for 2021 school year has begun
  - Receiving applications
  - Re Enrollment forms will be sent out in December
  - Plans under consideration
    - Like this year?
    - Return to a normal year?
  - Veterans Day assembly
    - Planned video release cancelled as some students requested that their pictures not be on social media
    - Very lovely ceremony
  - 8th Grade Service Project
    - School wide writing letters to parishioners
    - 7th Grade had written to one parishioner and she brought bag of goodies for them
  - 6th Grade Service Project
    - Respect
    - Sending out Christmas Cards
  - Virtual Visitation Event coming up
  - Extended Day Program closed for year
    - 30 expressed interest
    - Only 6 signed up
  - Teacher survey: Problems with the virtual situation
    - Students not moving classrooms, no chance to socialize or get some movement going
    - Loss of quiet time in the school
    - Working hard
  - Current Year Schedule
    - August 26 potential opening was delayed to August 31
    - Longer Thanksgiving break

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- Whole week for students
- Teacher work day at start of week
- Christmas will be a two week break

PTPO Update

Jennie Hooker

- Spreading word about fundraising events
  - Thanks
  - Another will be in January (Chick-fil-A)
- Fulfill wish list items
  - PTPO reaches out to address needs of teachers and school
  - Example: Providing extra science kits that are non-shareable so all students can work on the project
- Advent/Christmas Events
  - December 4, treat bags will be used instead of stuffing shoes with candy
  - December 14, luncheon for teachers and church staff instead of cookies for teachers
- Additional Lion Laps sponsors still being sought

Finance:

Andrea Kramer

- The Finance Council met earlier this week
- Stewardship Campaign
  - Review of situation now that the letter has been sent
  - Good response of non-donors or new one-time donors
  - Monitoring who is committing to long-term donations via Faith Direct
  - A reminder letter will be sent around Thanksgiving
  - Thank you letters will be mailed in December
- Paycheck Protection Package loan may become a one-time grant
  - Delay in applying for conversion to grant due to delay in bank portal opening
  - Slowing down for wait and see approach as application requirements may become easier as time goes on
  - More than met standards required to convert to grant

Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion): Written reports received Tuesday of the week of meeting (Copies of reports at end of minutes)

- Community Service Sarah Kirk
  - ESL reports that one student recently passed the US citizenship test
  - Gift of Peace - one meal a month
  - Giving Tree - donations to be made directly except for the Christmas adoption program
  - Facets - is providing donations instead of food
  - Hypothermia - narrowing specifics for operations
  - Matthew 25 - Amazing supply of food continues to come in, but still needed
  - Thanksgiving Clothing - donate directly to organizations, nothing to St Mark
  - SALT - virtual town halls
  - Direct Assistance: very generous
  - Tithing allocation: five organizations have applied, funds are being allocated
- Religious Education Andrea Kramer
  - Good shape for people to access the sacraments
  - Confirmation retreats are being done virtually

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- Overall RE enrollment numbers are down
  - Many families are doing the homeschool option
  - Virtual instruction works better for some than others
- Community Growth Betsy Zolper
  - Bereavement program
    - Hybrid model
    - Next meeting is in January
  - Common Home
    - Laudato Si plan (Pope Francis on ecology) to bring us closer
    - Seven year action plan
    - Environmental responsibility
    - Social Justice done
  - Remembrance Mass
  - M&Ms Zoom Meeting
  - Alpha
    - Finishing the session
    - Reunion
    - Joining Bible Study or Small Communities of Faith
    - Can be multiple groups
      - Moms having a section, for example
      - School group?
    - Bulk are Catholic (and St. Mark parishioners), but some are out of state (moved St. Mark or family members)
- Worship Pam Burke
  - Mass schedule moving forward
  - Changes on the 1st Sunday of Advent (first Sunday after Thanksgiving)
    - No more communion service (weather concerns)
    - Mass at 11:00 am in church
    - Livestream still on
  - No Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass (see bulletin)
  - Mindful of using plants for longer lasting effect
  - Cannot set up creche
    - High amount of labor in close proximity will prevent the full creche from being assembled
    - Holy Family will be there
  - Annual lector workshop via zoom
  - Christmas Eve Masses will all be livestreamed
  - Christmas Day Mass as normal
- Youth Tom Pell
  - Zoom overload, so Sunday night not well attended
  - Checking with other parishes (St. Leo's in particular) and try to adapt working strategies
  - (Virtual) Confirmation retreats: 47 boys 35 girls
  - Work camps moving ahead
  - White House ornament
    - 200 pre sold with a week to go
    - Ordered 250
  - Young Adults cookout went well; Friendsgiving in planning stages

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#### Old Business:

- Nominations and Elections Committee (Karen, Marjorie, Betsy, Crystal)
  - Scheduled for November 14-22
  - Biographies are in the Narthex, online, and in the bulletin
  - Voting options
    - Voicemail
    - Voting in person after Saturday Night Mass
    - Google forms voting (notice online)
  - Five candidates (in alphabetical order) for the four positions
    - Thomas M. "Tom" Brownell
    - Theresa Croson
    - Michael Hatheway
    - Susan Heard
    - Elizabeth Peters
  - Stay tuned

#### New Business

- Pastoral Council Social – Scheduled on Thursday, December 3 at 7:30 pm (Note: agreed to shift time to 6:00 pm)
  - Virtualize or cancel? Cannot be in the rectory, its normal location
  - Important
    - Thanking the outgoing members
    - Introduction of new members
    - Allows new members to familiarize themselves with Council and responsibilities
  - Consensus: we are having it!
  - Time at 6:00 pm
- January Retreat (Andrea)
  - Ordinarily held off-site in conjunction with parish/school staff
  - Helps integrate new PC members and a time to elect officers.
  - For 2021, Jean is happy to help us develop a PC only, virtual retreat instead.
  - Single Saturday (January 23, 2021) morning and only a few hours
  - Turner Farmhouse hybrid model offered as option
  - GET binder to new people!
  - Volunteers for content: talk with Andrea or Jean
  - Situation may change due to pandemic

#### Eyes and Ears:

- Choirs having hard time not singing together, loss of camaraderie

#### Father Pat comments

- Careful (as Eyes and Ears) especially with the cancellation of Communion Service
  - Communion Service is cancelled due to
    - Lack of volunteers
    - Worries about inclement weather
  - Attendance at Communion Service is less than 200, so the new Mass can encompass those presently attending

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- Daily Mass only has 30 worshipers per day
- Be wary of one parishioner who claims “they were not told” or “you never announced”...
- December Meeting/January Retreat may change with the CDC guidelines
- Double proposed check date that it not scheduled against football games

Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Next Meeting: December 3 Social (Tentative)

Meeting ends at 7:30 pm

### **Service Commission Report for November 2020**

**Blood Drive:** December Blood Drive is cancelled and will reschedule for December 2021

**CHINS:** Provided an Amazon Wish list for folks to purchase gifts during the Giving Tree time for Children in the Hospital

**Christ House:** Christ House ministry is on hold during Covid period.

**English as a Second Language (ESL):** St. Mark ESL just had one of our Citizenship class students pass her US Citizenship interview. We continue with our Zoom classes, with two students logging in from Peru, where they got stuck when visiting family - due to COVID 19 travel restrictions. We are more than halfway through our semester and making plans for registration and recruitment for the winter term.

**Gift of Peace:** We continue to provide one meal/month to the Reston Shelter, on the first Thursday of every month. Food is prepared in volunteers homes, delivered to St. Mark kitchen, then re-delivered to the Shelter.

**Giving Tree / Adoption Ministry:** Has begun. All planning is final and the word is out on all of our ways of communicating (bulletin, facebook, website, emails, pulpit announcements, etc.). The biggest difference from years past is the inability to use the Cassidy Activities Center to collect and re-distribute gifts. This year, we are emphasizing for St. Mark Parishioners to donate directly with the Organizations we help using their websites. We are also collecting gift cards at the office during office hours. Lastly, we are helping 80 Foster Children and 20 families, directly, with specific gift requests. Those will be collected at the parish office between now and the first week of December, and distributed to FamilyPASS and The Fairfax Co Foster Care folks by mid- December.

**Hot Meals Team (FACETS):** The Hot Meals Team is still unable to prepare meals for our homeless community. St Mark is providing donations to FACETS to purchase food in place of our usual meal contribution. This process is expected to continue at least until January.

**Hypothermia Shelter Program:** The Hypothermia shelter team has teamed up with a second faith community, Fairfax Presbyterian the week of December 6. The county still has not finalized the location of the shelter for the season. A SignupGenius will go live on November 14. We are asking for sandwich making supplies. Three of us will be making all sandwiches in order to minimize contact. FACETS will be using one site on a 24-hour schedule for the entire season, starting December 1, 2020. The exact location is yet to be determined. FACETS staff will facilitate the program, no volunteers are

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expected and the site will be on a bus line. More information will be available after the October 13th POC FACETS meeting.

**Matthew 25:** Amazing supply of food continues to be donated in our M25 area from Parishioners. Food is constantly re- distributed to our area organizations in need.

**PACT:** Ministry: we are still not able to visit our homebound due to Covid.

**Thanksgiving Clothing Drive:** - Information is now going out in the bulletin, facebook, etc. about our annual Clothes Donation program, as we cannot collect and distribute from the Activities Center, this year. We are asking folks to take their clothing donations directly to any of the 12 organizations that we recommend.

**Social Action Linking Together (SALT):**

1. SALT's Hosting the Virginia Virtual" Nuns on the Bus—Town Hall" on Monday October 12 was very successful. Sr. Simone announced that she is leaving NETWORK.

2. SALT convened meeting advocacy partners plan legislative strategy for the upcoming 2021 session and to develop a legislative package to Ban Private prisons in Virginia & to close Lawrenceville a private prison—& our Video Visitation proposal. See SALT Fact Sheets attached;

3. SALT supported the virtual VA for the Alternative to the Death Penalty (VADP) Award ceremony honoring Senator Bill Stanley for his leadership.

4. SALT has requested Sen. Stanley to patron our proposed Solitary confinement bill.

**Other Random Service Projects:**

**Direct Assistance:** No surprise here. We are helping a lot of folks in financial need through our collections in the St. Mark Poor Box. Parishioners have been very generous in mailing in money to us specifying the Poor Box.

**Tithing Allocation Committee:** We met in September and agreed to distribute funds to 5 great local organizations who applied for Grant money: FamilyPASS, Stroke Comeback Center, Tanzania Education Fund, The Car Ministry and Centreville Immigration Forum. We meet, again, on November 18 to decide on funding for HOPE of Northern Va and Shelterhouse.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER**

**SACRAMENTS**

**Baptisms:** The parish continues to offer Private Baptism: There are 4 scheduled from Nov. 2020 to Jan. 2021.

**First Eucharist:** There are 71 second graders and 3 older children preparing for First Eucharist in Spring 2021.

**Confirmation**

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- Our Confirmation date is Friday, May 21, 2021 at 7 pm with Bishop Loverde (NO Mass; will be Liturgy of the Word and Confirmation Rite).
- There are 86 eighth graders and 4 High Schoolers preparing for Confirmation.
- The Confirmation Retreats were just completed via Zoom.

#### **RCIA**

- Candidates: 1 Baptized young adult actively in Inquiry. One adult just dropped out, but may rejoin with their spouse in January.
- Pre-Catechumenate: 2 unbaptized SMCS children in 4th grade and 1 teen in Inquiry. All Inquirers are meeting with Jean Lupinacci twice a month on separate tracks.

#### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**Bible Study-** Mark Morneau is setting up bible studies.

- In December, the parish will offer Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible to people who have completed Alpha and anyone else who wants to join.

#### **CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION**

- We have completed 7 weeks of Religious Education (RE).
- RE is meeting every week in November. In December, classes will be off 12/20 and 12/27. Classes meet on either Sunday or Monday via Zoom (208 children enrolled).
- Home school families are doing self-study at their own pace (85 children enrolled).

#### **November 2020 Community Growth Activities Report**

**Always Our Children:** No November update. Believe they met recently.

**Bakers for Funerals:** Cannot have receptions. Will likely recruit when receptions resume.

**Bereavement:** Bereavement Program just finished the fall series, with 10 guests, hybrid model at Turner Farm and by zoom. We will have a post holiday get together with that group January 10. The winter series will start on January 17, Sundays 3:30 - 5, hybrid model, with a 1/2 day retreat on February 27, concluding on March 14.

**Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) –** Several of our members have joined with peers from Creation Care Teams at other parishes to help with the Diocesan response to the **Vatican 7 Year Laudato Si' Action Plan** which aims to move church institutions and facilities toward sustainability. We are also working on the diocesan **Educational Webinar Series Task Force** to help other parishes hold webinars similar to our God's Gift of Water program.

**Christians in Commerce (CIC) –** Meeting weekly through Zoom.

**Ecumenical Bereavement Ministry through the Becky Love Foundation (BLF):** The Grief Group is waiting for access to ST MARK when Covid improves.

**Evangelist Ministry - Alpha:** Completing 4th session, 2nd session with Zoom.

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**Funeral Receptions:** Suspended.

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

**Le Cercle Francais:** Continues to meet via Zoom every Tuesday from 10 to 12 and converse en Francais.

**MOMs Ministry:** No November update.

**Movie Night:** Cancelled.

**Newcomer's Committee:** Fall luncheon cancelled.

**Pastoral Care Team (PACT):** We cannot allow our Eucharistic Ministers to visit with our elderly homebound parishioners until we are cleared by the State/Bishop. Same thing goes for our weekly service/visit with the many folks at Sunrise Retirement Home in Oakton. St. Mark PACT ministers continue with the next best thing – calling to visit via phone.

**Prayer Requests:** We continue to receive many prayer requests that are sent out to our 150+ prayer volunteers. Bill welcomes new members to this group!

**Peace and Justice Committee (PJC):** Not meeting.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Prayer shawl members continue to keep busy with concern for cold temperatures, they are working on hats and scarves for the homeless. Barbara Johnson, leader of this group has broken her hip.

**Praying College Moms (PCM):** Seminar – No November update.

**Pro-Life Committee (PLC):** During the month of October we were very busy. We held a Virtual Baby Shower to benefit **A Woman's Choice** in Herndon. The 40 Days for Life campaign also ran. At least 2 babies were saved that we know of. We are beginning to discuss what we will do for the March For Life.

**Remembrance Ministry:** On Monday, Nov. 2, the Remembrance Ministry hosted St. Mark's annual Mass of Remembrance. Covid-19 restrictions were in place for the mass, which was attended by nearly 150. The names of those we lost over the past year were read and candles were lit. The Remembrance Ministry is honored to be able to host this mass each year as it marks the beginning of our month-long time of remembrance for all our loved ones who have died.

**Senior Ministry (M&M's):** M&M held a Zoom session on Wednesday, Nov 4th where a member showed participants pictures of his trip to Prague.

**Small Communities of Faith:** Most groups are meeting via Zoom. Books/other material have been ordered to guide these groups during the Advent season.

**Soup and Stations:** Paused

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**Welcome and Information Desk:** No November update.

### **Worship Commission Report - November 2020**

Pam BURke will be serving as the new Worship Commission representative, succeeding Bob Lemieux.

After the Worship Commission discussion and input, Fr. Pat and the staff recently finalized the following schedule of liturgies for the Advent/Christmas season. The Liturgical Art Committee is planning seasonal decoration but is mindful of keeping expenses low.

#### **Thanksgiving**

Thursday, November 26 – 10 AM – public Mass in the Church

#### **1st Sunday in Advent**

November 29 – 5:30 PM – public Mass in the Church

December 1 – 9:30 AM – livestream Mass in the Chapel

December 1 – 11 AM – public Mass in the Church {collectively, the new “regular weekend schedule” going forward}

#### **2nd Sunday in Advent**

December 5-6: regular weekend schedule

#### **Immaculate Conception**

Monday, December 7 – 7:30 PM – public Mass in the Church

Tuesday, December 8 – 9:15 AM – public Mass in the Church

Tuesday, December 8 – 11 AM – livestream Mass in the Chapel

#### **3rd Sunday in Advent**

December 12-13: regular weekend schedule

#### **Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols**

Sunday, December 13 – 7 PM – livestream service in the Chapel

#### **Advent Taize and Blessing of the Creche**

Thursday, December 17 – 7 PM – livestream service in the Chapel

#### **4th Sunday in Advent**

December 19-20: regular weekend schedule

#### **Christmas Eve**

Thursday, December 24 – 5 PM, 8 PM, and 10 PM – livestream Mass in the Chapel

Please note: We are not able to offer in-person Masses on Christmas Eve.

#### **Christmas Day**

Friday, December 25 – 10 AM – public Mass in the Church, overflow seating in AC, with additional ability for others to view livestream from the back parking lot and come into the ELC area for Communion

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### **Feast of the Holy Family**

December 26-27: regular weekend schedule

### **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**

Thursday, December 31 – 5:30 PM – public Mass in the Church

Friday, January 1, 2021 – 9:30 AM – livestream Mass in the Chapel

1st Friday adoration in the Church from 10:30 AM – 10 PM

### **Epiphany of the Lord**

January 2-3, 2021: regular weekend schedule

## **Youth Commission Report for November 2020**

### **Junior High School Youth Ministry**

- Kevin has had a couple Jr. High Nights via Zoom with light attendance. The youth are really tired of being online on ZOOM. He tries to liven their spirits by playing a game or two with prizes (e gift cards), which helps a little.
- There were 47 boys and 35 girls on the virtual Confirmation retreats in late October and early November.

### **High School Youth Ministry**

- Sarah Kirk and Kevin Flores are attending a virtual WorkCamp meeting with the Diocese tonight and will report on it next month. I know the Youth office is planning for a regular WorkCamp with a Covid contingency.
- Sarah and Kevin also held an interest meeting for WorkCamp over Zoom on October 22.
- There was a virtual high school ministry night on Sunday, October 25 with light attendance. The youth are really tired of being online on ZOOM. Kevin tries to liven their spirits by playing a game or two with prizes (e gift cards), which helps a little.
- We have our WH Ornament fundraiser for WorkCamp going well! We have pre-sold over 200 with a week to go. I only ordered 250 ornaments this year because of the pandemic and Fr. Pat agreed that no pies would be sold for health reasons. Please spread the word that ornaments are going fast!
- Order forms are online on the YM website page. Pickup of ornaments start Sunday, November 22.

### **Young Adult Ministry**

- We had a cookout and bonfire last Friday, November 6, after Adoration at Ben Porter's house. We also went on a hike the following Saturday, November 7.
- We are planning a "Friendsgiving" on the 21.
- We are still hosting virtual Bible Studies. We are almost finished with the Bible and the Virgin Mary study session and are hoping to start a new one.

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