

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2018

7:30 pm

Parish Library C 103

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
1. Prayer	Jim Hathaway
2. Formation	Mouse Neumeister
3. Review of Minutes / Action Items	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to approve, seconded, and passed	
4. Council Email Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The IT department wants to remove the personal emails of the pastoral council from the website• A uniform group email has been established• New instructions will be sent from Crystal Sheehan on how to access• Personal emails will still be used for standard operations, such as passing meeting notes. The new accounts are for interactions with the public.	
5. Finance	Karen Asta
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting held on Tuesday• LED lighting proposal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ They formed a small working group.○ Interest is there, but they still want to explore other options. Only one company has bid and they would like to have a few alternatives from multiple bidders.○ Additional information is needed on the electric bills for 2017 and 2018 to establish a baseline.○ No deadline has been set at this point of time.• Budget FY19 proposed; to be voted on next month• Attendance: downward trend. Easter attendance was the lowest in recent memories<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There is a downward trend, which breaks down to several	

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hundred parishioners per mass.

- Why the drop? Is it an obligation? Are there other priorities?
- Tithing Allocation (\$22K)
 - Centerville Immigrants: Some day laborers are being unpaid after working; this helps the workers through employment
 - Haiti: Less than one percent of Haitian students go to college. This education fund helps support those students who go to college if they pledge to return to Haiti. Presently there are three doctors, one nurse, and four professions are returning this year
 - Home for Hope (India) Cerebral Palsy
 - Knights of Columbus/KOVAR: \$3.5K
 - Women in Rwanda to Stay in School
 - Fairfax County Public Schools: Supplies to the needy

6. School Update

- 8th Graders: Catholic Math Award (#1 in nation for Geometry!)
- Upcoming Events: Grandparents Day (tom); Confirmation; School World Civilization Day, Field Day, Graduation, Move Up
- Evangelization within the school: 6 students in school; 2 in RCIA; 1 first grader also RCIA
- Girmus: Special cards for special occasions (Christmas cards to the neighbors; student confirmation cards).
- Gala packed. Numbers still being processed

7. PTPO Update

Skipped

8. Commission Reports (Major Highlights)

Community Service

Helen Cascio

- ESL Boot Camp just finished
- Truckload of furniture delivered on April 14; next in November. The collecting is always underway.

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- Matthew 25: Over 2000 pounds collected for St Lucy / the food pantry
- SALT wrap up in Richmond

Religious Education

Walter Gawlak

- Three St Mark parishioners graduated from a two year program as Master Catechist.
- Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop Burbidge
- Moved to Wednesday session for ease of attendees
- Adult Formation: mystioge (post Easter) Commission heads to meet with the neophytes; help keep the enthusiasm up through engagement
- Three bible studies classes to be held in the fall
- Why is first communion broken up among the masses instead of having one special mass? And how are the first communicants divided? The division brings in everyone in the church into the ceremony. The communicants choose which mass they will attend, but tends to choose their “home” masses. Some choose other masses due to the flexibility for visitors, and allows the children to sit with their families. In addition, the entire church gets to celebrate; as the children get to shine. About 100 this year.

Community Growth

Maria Maldonado for
Cris Revaz

- Care for Our Common Home
- Successful Newcomers Luncheon
- Mass of Remembrance

Worship

Bob Lemiux

- Confirmation mass presently recruiting various support staff necessary
- Celebration starts at 6:30; services at 7:00
- Liturgical Arts: Procession candles are continually leaning. We will be making new candle holders (woodworking) and followers
- Christmas 2018 will fall on a Tuesday. The challenge will be with the maintenance staff, as other events in gym will be on Friday, the regular masses and the Penance service on Sunday, and the Christmas Eve services on Monday. They are working out the scheduling and budget.

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- Skipped

9. Old Business

Council

- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:
 - Very favorable reactions from the attendees. Many considered it “Awesome.”
 - The food was wonderful, including the extra deserts at the end of the evening.
 - The DJs, repeats from last year, had the group up and dancing. A job well done.
- LED: Awaiting Finance Council decision.
- Attendance
 - Push on Faith Direct? It is going well, but should be mentioned. Do not make it sound, however, that as long as their money is coming in, we do not care if they show up for church.
 - Are some parishioners shopping around? Some people may be looking due to time or convenience.
 - We should review other church bulletins, the internet, and information from travels over the summer for additional ideas to increase attendance.
 - Pick and choose Catholics, Once-a-year Catholics, and Twice-a-year Catholics are always going to be there. Be happy when they are there, but consider ways of having them come more often.

10. New Business

Council

- Facilities Committee
 - This proposed group is to help Modesto Cancho, the facilities manager, through the use of their various areas of expertise.
 - Creation of an overview sheet
 - While the finance committee looks at big picture and prioritization of critical items, the facilities committee will be a list of potential volunteer aids to assist in a case-by-case basis.

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- This assistance is not a comment on the facility manager's capabilities, as he is professional. The committee is to help with recapitalization of future operations in areas where he feels additional expertise may be helpful, including recommendations and referrals to outside contractors.
- Council to review charter for review next month
- Church Audio System
 - Are new sound systems are being installed in other parishes
 - Listening headphones are available through the ushers.
 - Reminder to the lectors and guests in the proper use of the microphones
 - The problems are more with the acoustics of the building and not the sound system

11. Eyes and Ears

Council

- Billboard on front: a request for humorous quotes? More interested in putting up critical information such as times.
- Possibility of putting on more lights on Stations of the Cross?
- Is it possible to make the Narthex into a more or better presence?
- Opening the doors means a lot. Ushers greeting? Ushers to make a more impact.

12. Pastoral Issues / Status / Update

Father Pat

- People with students going to St Mark attending masses at other parishes: Part of this may be time, others are location. If you note the boundaries of St Mark, the facility is not in the geographical center of the area. Other churches might be physically closer.
- Already being addressed is the potential conflict between the 11:45 Sunday Mass (December 23) and the 3:45 Christmas Eve Mass (Monday, December 24) due to preparation time. The Christmas Eve masses will be scheduled at 5:00 instead.

13. Closing Prayer

Meeting Ends at 9:36pm; Next Meeting: June 14, 2018

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Commission Reports:

Community Service

Religious Education

Community Growth

May 2018 Community Growth Activities Report (mid April – mid May '18)

Always Our Children: No report received

Bakers for Funerals: No activity during this time period.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CFOCH) On April 18, CCH co-chairs attended a meeting at the Chancery of Representatives from the nine parishes in the Arlington Diocese that have CCH teams. A mission statement was adopted along with guidelines for those interested in started a CCH group. The guidelines will be posted on the Diocesan website. CCH hosted Dr. de Mello who gave a "Tour of the Milky Way" on April 22nd. The slideshow depicted the wonders of God's created universe and our place within it which was appropriate on Earth Day. There were over 130 people in attendance including 42 students from St. Mark. CCH also presented the LED lighting proposal for the parish buildings (separate from school) to Finance and Parish Councils at their recent April meetings. Finance Council will make a decision after a review of other proposals.

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 from 7-8 am.

Cursillo: Meets every Tuesday 12:30-1:30 in Jean Lupinacci's office for those who have already made a weekend. <http://www.arlingtoncursillo.org>

Evangelization Committee: No report received.

Funeral Receptions: Funeral reception on April 21.

Knights of Columbus: No report received.

Le Cercle Francais: Continues to meet every Tuesday from 10 am -12 and converse en Francais.

Movie Night: On Friday, April 20th, Family Movie Night showed Ferdinand. We had a low attendance, only about 65, but everyone who attended had a fun night and enjoyed the ice cream social. Our next film is Wonder on Friday, May 18th. Here is the poster for Wonder.



Newcomers Committee: We had another successful Newcomers Luncheon on 22 April and welcomed 5 new families to St. Mark. They all seemed very appreciative of us inviting them to the luncheon and were engaged in great conversations with the volunteers, Pastoral Council members, and staff who were in attendance. Our next luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, October 21st, 2018. We are also co-sponsoring the June 10th Donut Sunday with the Pro-Life Committee.

Pastoral Care Team (PACT): No report received.

Peace and Justice Committee: Peace and Justice Committee sponsored 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: We are working on baby blankets for the St Mark Baby Shower. 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 Mass of Remembrance was held on April 11. There were about 30 people in attendance. During the mass we collected a flower for each child being remembered. The flowers were placed on the monument to the unborn that is behind the church. See first photo below of the monument with the flowers. After the mass anyone who wanted could get an individual blessing for the child(ren) being remembered. The second photo is Father Paul giving the blessing. On May 19-20 the Pro-Life group will hold the Baby Shower for A Woman's Choice, Divine Mercy Ministries (Tepeyac) and the Gabriel Project. These help by providing support for pregnant families.



Remembrance Ministry: The Remembrance Ministry has added a new member bringing our total roster to 8. As part of our mission to serve the bereaved in our parish, we are joining with Deacon John and others to explore further avenues of outreach and support for those in grief. We continue to contact on a monthly basis those who have lost loved one over the preceding weeks.

Senior Ministry (M&Ms): The highlight in April was our tour of the State Department Diplomatic Rooms on the 8th floor. We were there the day after the French president, Macron, was feted on the 8th floor. We dined at DACOR Bacon House located at 1825 F St., NW. Lovely federal period home that is home to Diplomatic and Councillor Officers Retired group. Our May coffee featured Tom Whitaker talking about his trip to the Holy Land with some interesting slides. We also had a cake to send off Barb and Ed Cukauskas on their way to NC later this month. They have been parishioners for over 40 years! We will have a pot luck luncheon on the 23rd and a visit to the Fairfax Water Authority for a tour of just how we get our water. We will have lunch at Madigan's Restaurant in Occoquan.

Small Communities of Faith: No report received

Welcome and Information Desk: No report received.

Worship

Youth

PCU March/April 2018

High School events

- The two Discipleship Sundays we had in March were tough, since they at the end of the two Confirmation Retreats. Hopefully, we can rectify this next year.
- The three Discipleship Sundays in April were a little less attended due to sports, academics and college visits. We even had a couple 8 grade youth and parents check it out. The half dozen or so regulars really want it to continue it in June and July on non-event weekends.
- Our WorkCamp Mulch Delivery and Spreading went very well this year with extra hands pitching in for both. We made a bit less than last year, but overall better than prior years!
- The Living Stations surprisingly went off without too many problems. We had everyone set and prepped before Wednesday's final practice. Philip Van Dalen portrayed Jesus.
- World Youth Day 2019 in Panama is less than a year away. I have 4 pilgrims total for St. Mark. We will be having a meeting over the summer. The Diocesan group is smaller overall because of the dates.

College Events

- College Moms Ministry continues to send care packages and pray for all St. Mark College youth. Usually once in the fall and one in the spring.
- A College Night by St. John Bosco Foundation will be hosted by St. Mark again on **Wednesday, June 20th**. Fr. Vacarro enjoys St. Mark parish hosting 1 of the 3 nights. This event helps seniors keep in contact with their campus ministers at their colleges. Many reps from various colleges are on hand to speak and give testimonies along with answer any questions, the seniors may have.

May 4, 2018

Jr. High Efforts

- Assisted with Youth and Family Mass on April 8.
- Coordinated Junior High Dodgeball activity on April 15.
- Coordinated *ST. MARK* participation in BASH (Diocesan on) on April 21 (over 100 *ST. MARK* Junior Highers and chaperones participated).
- Coordinated Junior High Trip to Wizards/Raptors playoff game on April 28.

Young Adult Efforts

- Coordinated *ST. MARK* participation in Fairfax Theology on Tap on April 16.
- Communicated with Meg Hunter-Kilmer to get her organized to present at Fairfax Theology on Tap on June 18.

Other Efforts

- Participated in *ST. MARK* staff meeting on April 11.
- Assisted with Confirmation Interviews on April 8 and April 15.
- Participated in Discipleship Sunday meeting on April 25.
- Participated in Annual Meeting on May 1-3 (organizing by Diocesan YM Office)
- Assisted with organization of Spirit teams and training of Spirit team leaders.