

Pastoral Council Meeting Final Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2022

CFC Room 103 7:00 pm

- Prayer: Theresa Croson
- Formation: Theresa Croson
- Review of Minutes
 - Motion to accept made, seconded, and passed.
- School Update: Kimberly Parker
 - Thanks for the letters of appreciation sent to the teachers.
 - Selections are being read at the end of the morning prayer.
 - They have been well received, welcomed, and nice to hear.
 - All are looking more traditional end of school year
 - The 3rd grade held their state fair.
 - Field trips are being planned. This is a challenge as all schools are doing so in the month of May, and transportation sources are rapidly reaching capacity.
 - The 8th grade graduation planning is underway.
 - The staff has been told
 - the assistant principal will not be returning to the position as she wants to “just be the mom to her 8th grader.”
 - a candidate for the position has been interviewed and has accepted the position. This will be announced tomorrow.
 - which teachers and which instructional assistant are not returning next year. The families will be informed tomorrow.

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- The Newcomers Luncheon was the best attended ever.
- Mary Garden
 - The new statue is being prepared for the blessing,
 - Stepping stones are now in place.
- Worship: Pam Burke
 - Discussions with the collections with ushers: while there is some confusion with new parishioners, it is not of a major nuisance or problem.
 - Handrails in the activity center?
 - As the volunteers are getting older, access to the altar area is difficult for some.
 - The funeral reception people require access to the closet behind the altar, as it is the storage area for the silk flowers and other items.
 - Does the ambo need to be on the altar?
 - Laura is coming back on June 7
- Youth: Sarah Kirk (not present)
 - No questions or comments
- Old Business:
 - Mary Garden: a teacher is being appointed to coordinate stepping stones after mass.
- New Business:
 - Jubilee Pilgrimage (25 June; 13 hours)
 - Pilgrimage ambassador
 - Volunteers or appointees? Karen Asta, Andrea Kramer, Sarah Kirk
 - Deadline for response is June 3rd. Crystal Sheehan should be contacted with the response.
 - Diocesan Synod (9 June)

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■ Facilitator (Karen Asta or Sarah Kirk)

- Eyes and Ears
 - Some carpool parents are arriving an hour ahead of time. They leave their engines idling. The students walk into this wall of toxic fumes. Is there a way to discourage arriving early or having them shut the engines off? Maybe having a volunteer assisting in the handling of this situation.
- Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting Ends at 8:14

Next Meeting: June 9, 2022

To: St. Mark Pastoral Council

From: Theresa Croson
Service Commission Representative

Date: May 9, 2022

Re: Service Ministry Report for May 12, 2022 Meeting

Bakers for Funeral Receptions: Mary Lou McIntire reported that volunteers baked for one funeral held on May 10.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Monica O'Keefe reported that last Thursday night, on May 5, 2022, ESL had their end-of-term party; a celebration for students, their families, and the volunteers. The celebration consisted of a pot luck dinner where many students brought dishes from their native countries. Twenty nine (29) students received attendance awards. A special award was given to one student who has had perfect attendance for the last five years! Also honored were six (6) students who passed their US Citizenship exam this past academic year. ESL at St Mark will be offering a free weekly Summer Conversation Class via Zoom from June 21-July 28. The regular ESL classes will start again in September 2022. It is everyone's hope and prayer that the health situation will permit classes to finally resume in person by then. ESL had up to 60 volunteers this year teaching or assisting on Zoom classes, and helping with administrative chores. Monica asked that Bill Grossman, Denise Argote and Mary Ann Dmochowski be recognized for their wonderful support and that ESL could not succeed without them.

Hot Meals (FACETS): Dave Kent reported that the next FACETS event will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022. This involves preparing and delivering hot meals to homeless folks within the Fairfax area.

Hypothermia Shelter Program: Pilar Oishi reported that this program will not have any activity until late August.

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Lenten Cross 2022: On April 27, 2022, the following Thank You Letter was sent to St Mark from Ryan P. Walker, House of Mercy Donor Relations Manager:

Good morning,

I just wanted to extend an extra big thank you on behalf of our staff, volunteers and the families we serve for participating in our Lenten Cross program this year and for all your help in making it a success. Thanks to your church and its members our shelves are fully stocked and our pantry is ready for the decrease it sees in donations during the summer months. Below are the totals from all 9 churches who participated this year. I sent a thank you letter in the mail today to your pastor with your individual church's totals and would be happy to send it over email as well if you would like.

*Grocery Bags (10 items=1 bag): 378
Car Seats: 22
New Shoes: 25
Packs of Diapers (10 diapers=1 pack): 920
Rolls of Toilet Paper: 727
Packs of Wipes (32ct=1 pack): 754
Baby Formula: 78
\$25 Gas Gift Cards: 51
\$25 Grocery Gift Cards: 42
Other Gift Cards: 8
Lbs of Food: 3,957.08 lbs
Total Monetary Donations: \$14,107.*

Thank you so much again to you, your church's staff and all your parishioners and members. You're an incredible blessing to our ministry and all the families we serve and words can't describe how thankful we are for your support and prayers. We'd love the chance to get to know and thank all the wonderful people who've helped us with our mission this Lent and would be blessed for the opportunity to speak at or set up a table following your mass/services one weekend. Thank you so much again and I pray that God blesses you and your churches as He's used your actions to bless our ministry and the families we serve this Lent.

Matthew 25: Bill Grossman reported that Matthew 25 continues to collect many needed items for Family PASS. They are currently restocking empty shelves in the St. Mark Storage area.

Social Action Linking Together (SALT): As reported by John Horejsi, on May 3, 2022, SALT sponsored the following: "Toward Family Independence: How the Social Service System Prevents Re-Integration Into the Workforce and What Can Be Done?" Two (2) legislators and the Director from Fairfax County were virtual guests at this presentation. SALT located in Richmond conducted a wrap up show and there was an inside scoop TV broadcast with moderator, Catherine Read. This show is one hour long and full of great information. It will be broadcasted next Monday evening. If you miss it, not to worry. John will have the Youtube video posted on SALT's Web Site. In addition, the Budget Amendments to comply with the legislative mandate to fund the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and to make the Virginia Earned Income Tax Credit (VEITC) refundable are both still part of the ongoing Budget negotiations, the outcome of which has not yet been determined.

The Tithing Allocation Committee: Bill Grossman reported that the TAC will meet on Wednesday, May 18th to review 3 applications requesting St Mark parish to provide donation to: "Blessings in a Backpack, "Haiti College Fund", and "Knights of Columbus."

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Religious Education Report for May 2022

Jean Lupinacci's last day at **ST. MARK** will be May 25. She has accepted a new job as Director of Faith Formation at **ST. JOHN NEUMANN** Church, Reston. Our parish is excited for her but will miss her! Our DRE position has been advertised on CatholicJobs.com (<https://www.catholicjobs.com/job/1078151432>) with a closing date of May 12.

SACRAMENTS

1. Baptisms: We continue to hold Baptisms for infants/children at stand-alone services of Baptism rather than during Masses. Currently, four children are scheduled for the group service on May 14, four for June 11, four for July 16, and two for August 13. Fr. Tuck will preside at a private Baptism on June 1. The pew renovation and church floor replacement project will necessitate moving all liturgical services, including Baptisms, to the Cassidy Activities Center during July and August; families selecting those dates have been informed.
2. Eucharist: First Eucharists will be celebrated at all Masses on the weekends of May 7-8 and 14-15.
3. Confirmation: Rehearsal is May 22 and Confirmation is May 23 for our parish youth. Following the Mass of Confirmation, a simple reception (cake and beverages only) will be offered during pictures with Bishop Burbidge. Additionally, two adults are in formation for Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More on Pentecost.

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION

There are 44 people participating in the *Romans* scripture study via Zoom. The study ends on May 26.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

1. Religious Education classes have ended for this school year and will resume for the next year on Sunday, September 11, 2022. Monday class sections will also be offered for the 6th-8th grades from 6:30-7:45 pm.
2. Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 11-15, 2022. The adult volunteer team will be having their first planning meeting in a couple of weeks. We are still looking for more adults to volunteer!

May 2022 Community Growth Activities Report

Always Our Children (AOC): May 9th was the last meeting for this ministry year.

Bakers for Funerals: One funeral reception.

Bereavement Program: We will have a Summer Grief Gathering, Sunday June 12, 3:30 to 5 at Turner Farmhouse. Sacred Sharing, the St. Mark drop-in group, hosted by Ellen Murphy plans to start up in September, with quarterly meetings, 9/20/22, 12/20/22, 3/21/23 and 6/20/23. We hope to restart the Grief Group, our monthly grief support meeting, at Turner Farmhouse, details to follow.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH): Creation Care Mary Garden – Stepping-stones are ready for installation. A student from each grade will attend the garden blessing. Date TBD. Volunteers for weeding and watering, on a rotating basis, have been solicited through the bulletin, Facebook and THE WORD from St. Mark. Go here to volunteer - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845adae1-stmark1>

The Care for Creation Network of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington (CCNCDA) is sponsoring a five-part webinar series as part of the Laudato Si' 7-year action plan. The fourth webinar sponsored by St. Luke Parish - **Reducing Energy Waste to Care for Creation** is May 25th at 7 pm. RSVP to receive Zoom link: Care4Creation@SaintLukeMclean.org.

The first meeting of CCNCDA Laudato Si' working group is next week. We will discuss how to respond to the 7 goals of the action plan in our diocese. To learn more go to <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/>

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Christians in Commerce (CIC): No May update.

Donut Sunday: May 15th sponsored by the Lectors of St. Mark.

Evangelization Ministry: Alpha had a planning meeting. Hope to have in-person Alpha in the fall and continue Alpha for RE parents and begin Alpha for school parents.

Funeral Receptions: One funeral reception.

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

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

MOMs Ministry: No May update.

Newcomer's Committee: Newcomer's Luncheon was the first in two years and was our largest ever. Many young families attended. Thanks to the many Pastoral Council members who attended. Jess Osvarek, the committee chair could not attend due to her mother's illness. Fran Smith and the rest of the committee went forward smoothly with a successful event.

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: Our group met on May 10th

Praying College Moms (PCM): held their PCM SEASONAL ROSARY, in the chapel, followed by fellowship and refreshments after the rosary in the Cassidy Activities Center. Next meeting May 17th, in person.

The PCM organization is in the planning stage for a PCM Seminar with a special speaker at St. Mary's Church, Alexandria, in September. The PCM Parish meeting will break for the summer months, and resume again in September. Respective submitted by, Frances Chamberlin Board Member of the PCM Organization

Pro-Life Committee (PLC): Seeking new chair.

Remembrance Ministry: The Remembrance Ministry continues to contact bereaved members of our community.

Senior Ministry (M&M's): For the month of May the M&Ms had a coffee on May 4, Wednesday with nice attendance and Joyce Kerrigan gave an excellent presentation on The Shroud of Turin. The Bus trip to the Museum of the Bible has been finalized for May 18.

Small Communities of Faith (SCOF): No May update.

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Welcome and Information Desk: No May update.

Worship Commission May 2022

Worship Commission met Monday, May 9, 2022.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing the Triduum Masses. It has really been so long that we had full services although there were comments that people missed the foot washing Holy Thursday. We were all thankful Nancy was here to fill in for Laura and we commented that for as long as Laura's been here at St. Mark, she still hasn't been here for a Triduum. For each service we all discussed the affirmations, concerns and things to remember. Overall, there were many affirmations. Biggest concern that was mostly seen by us and not perhaps the congregation were some minor missteps which were attributed to our 'scripts' for each service being constantly updated and we all may not have been working off the most recent version. COVID and social distancing for some concerns also came into play.

Nancy took copious notes which will be passed on to Laura as well as Denise Argote taking notes for some items to be considered perhaps during the summer renovation of the church. This refers to the LED lighting we now have and checking to be sure the dimmer settings for the lights are correct.

Volunteer needs were discussed for confirmation being held Monday, May 23.

The remainder of our meeting focused on the move to having masses in the Cassidy Center during our summer renovation. We did have some logistical questions as to what will be needed on the altar, how will all

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fit, and what type of plants from LAC. This was helpful as these are items that need to be discussed with Father Pat as we prepare for this.

Our next meeting is June 13 and Laura will back with us at that meeting.

We closed by saying how grateful we are Nancy Novelly was here for us and for her commuting back and forth the North Carolina.

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