

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Minutes

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio

Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio (ABSENT)

Rachel Charette – St. John's

Diane Myre – St. John's

Marie Bardswich – St. John's

Sue Quackenbush – St. John's

Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's (ABSENT)

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 @6pm in the Parish Hall

PRAYER: We prayed a decade of the Rosary together.

Following this, the PPC met to discuss the following pastoral issues:

OLD BUSINESS:

All old business from the previous meeting is to be discussed under the Ongoing Business section below.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- (1) Social Concerns, Faith Formation & Spirituality, Pastoral Care, Worship, Youth, Future Planning
- (2) Parish Financial Update
- (3) New Members

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to be discussed.

Re: (1) Under **Social Concerns**, we continued our discussion initiated at the May meeting. The same question is raised: will there be a significant enough turnout to an event to justify the effort? In the background, of course, is the possibility of a Covid surge this winter, although we decided we would not base our decisions on "what ifs". At the end of the discussion, it was decided to work towards a winter pre-Lent event, possibly with the support of the Knights of Columbus. Fr. Michael indicated he will probably have a Sunday afternoon movie/dinner event (free) during Christmas, quite likely on January 8th. These events were suspended during the 2 years of the pandemic. Attendance that day would help gauge the parishioner's interest in social events going forward.

Under **Worship**, Fr. Michael reminded everyone that no matter how enjoyable recorded music might be at the Sunday Masses, it is still a poor second option to the preferred musician and choir format. The latter helps build community, ministerial involvement, and commitment. Unfortunately, although we have willing choir members, we lack a musician and a director. If one becomes available, that would be our go to option.

Under **Future Planning**, we took up our previous discussion on how to invite/welcome back parishioners who have been away. We also discussed various ideas to reach out to others in our parish boundaries. The idea of sending out letters was discussed once again, but it was decided to refrain from doing this, at least at this time.

Under **Youth**, there was a wide ranging discussion of how to reach out to and encourage the youth of our parish, and in particular those who are in the Sacramental preparation programs. A letter writing ministry was raised as one approach that may be looked at in the future.

Under **Pastoral Care**, it was reported that although we are still not regularly (weekly) bringing Holy Eucharist to those shut in, we are responding to their individual needs upon request. Where possible, Fr. Michael is mandating family members to bring Holy Eucharist to their spouses; there are three households currently ministered to in this way.

Under **Faith Formation & Spirituality**, there was a discussion around the possibility of a parish mission, or other such formation event. We were reminded of our fairly recent mission in partnership with Holy Redeemer and St. Andrew Parishes, and also of our Alpha Program which ended in early 2020. There are also innumerable online options that have been presented over the last few years, and local retreats offered at neighbouring parishes on a regular basis (the latest being an upcoming retreat at Our Lady of Hope Parish by Bishop Dowd).

Re: (2) Myron had sent everyone a spreadsheet, showing our revenues and expenses in comparison to our budget up until the end of the 3rd quarter. There were no concerns highlighted, as we are tracking quite closely to our 2022 budget.

Re: (3) All PPC members have agreed to extend their membership for at least one more year. There will be an ongoing effort made, through the bulletin, to encourage new members to step forward and participate. It was noted that we have not had a full complement of PPC members for many years. We are currently in need of 2 more representatives for St. John's Parish, and 1 more representative for St. Bernardine's Parish. Ideally, there would be representation from a wide cross section of parishioners (young/old, male/female, Garson/Falconbridge, etc.).

The meeting ended at 7:20pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 7th at 6pm in the Parish Hall