

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Minutes

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio
Rachel Charette – St. John's
Diane Myre – St. John's (ABSENT with regrets)

Marie Bardswich – St. John's
Sue Quackenbush – St. John's
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's (ABSENT)

OTHER PARISHIONERS PRESENT: Barb Pineau, Pamela Schofield-Adams, James Murphy

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 7, 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:

(1) New Members

ONGOING BUSINESS:

(2) Social Concerns, Faith Formation & Spirituality, Pastoral Care, Worship, Youth, Future Planning

(3) Parish Financial Update

NEW BUSINESS:

(4) Distribution of Divine Mercy candle money/Sponsorship of another child through Chalice?

Re (1): Fr. Michael expressed gratitude for the current PPC members who agreed to extend their service for one more year, and he welcomed the three parishioners who came as guests to this meeting. Without wanting to put any of them on the spot, he invited them to consider becoming a member of the PPC, and to let him know at their convenience if they would like to do this. In the meantime, he welcomed them to participate in the discussions at this meeting.

Re (2): Under **Social Concerns**, Rachel reported that, in partnership with the Knights of Columbus, there will be a pasta and meatball dinner event in February (tentatively on the 11th). Fr. Michael confirmed the parish Christmas movie day on Sunday, January 8th.

Fr. Michael reminded the PPC that “social concerns” is much broader than parish socials; that it encompasses the whole spectrum of social justice, which is at the heart of Christian concern and outreach. The discussion then expanded to the Garson Food Bank; Barb volunteered to find out what the greatest need is there each week, and to forward that to the office so that it may be published in the bulletin.

Under **Worship**, Fr. Michael indicated the possibility of one or two musicians from the Parish taking on the music ministry once again. He is encouraging them, and has offered whatever support they will need. James mentioned the possibility of utilizing music students from the university or college, and will investigate this potential.

Under **Future Planning**, we continued the discussion about the impact the pandemic has had on our attendance. It is not a situation unique to our parish, but we still discussed a number of possible outreach opportunities that might be useful in our situation. One decision made here, and partly encompassing the discussion under Youth, was to offer a parish bulletin email service, whereby the Sunday bulletin will be sent to anyone upon request. That will begin immediately.

Under **Youth**, there was a wide ranging discussion of how best to reach out to this demographic, remembering that “youth” (in Church parlance) means those aged 18-35, but also means at a practical level those in the teen, pre-teen, and childhood ages. In an effort to continue and to strengthen the connection with St. John’s School, the bulletin email service was discussed; Fr. Michael will add them to the email list, as a means of disseminating parish information to school staff and the families that have children there.

Under **Pastoral Care**, Marie reported that those who received Holy Eucharist at home pre-pandemic are either receiving it now from other parishioners, are no longer living in Garson, or are not able to receive Communion because of health issues. Fr. Michael indicated he will write a short catechesis on the “last rites” in this weekend’s bulletin, as there is still some confusion over how best to request these Sacraments. It was suggested that a refresher of this sort be published a few times each year.

Under **Faith Formation & Spirituality**, there was a wide ranging discussion of the options available for parishes. The key question is not what we can offer, but what interests those for whom it is offered. Fr. Michael indicated he is restarting the Friday chit chat ministry in January, and he is open to letting it unfold according to the expressed needs of those attending. It can be a teaching time, like it once was, or purely a social time, or a combination of both. Rachel will help determine what those attending are most interested in. James suggested a Fall program of some sort; Fr. Michael indicated an openness to that. Again, it is just a matter of determining what sort of program would interest parishioners the most.

Re: (3) Myron distributed a spreadsheet, showing our revenues and expenses in comparison to our budget up until the end of October. There were no concerns highlighted, as we are tracking quite closely to our 2022 budget. He also distributed a financial summary from July 1, 2017 to today, showing that despite some significant capital expenditures (ramp, rectory, windows, etc.), we are only about \$58,000 below our asset value five years ago. Fr. Michael noted that if the

parish chose to hire a secretary, then our current \$10,000 surplus would turn quickly into a \$10,000 deficit (or more).

Re: (4) To date, we have generated \$3,192 from the Divine Mercy candles. Of that, \$1,548 has been distributed to the two girls we are sponsoring through Chalice. That leaves us with \$1,644 to be distributed, plus whatever other money is received this month. It was noted that we also gave the \$700 gift from the Loughheed Foundation to the Garson Food Bank. A discussion ensued around the possibility of sponsoring a third child through Chalice. At the end, it was decided to refrain from this, at least for now. It was decided to donate \$1,500 further to the Garson Food Bank, and to donate whatever is left over from the candle money at the end of the year to Chalice, to use wherever the need is greatest.

The meeting ended at 8:00pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 15th at 6pm in the Parish Hall