

## 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 (ABSENT with regrets)

Barb Pineau – St. John's

Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John's

Marie Bardswich – St. John's

Sue Quackenbush – St. John's

James Murphy – St. John's

Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's (ABSENT)

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 @ 6pm in the Parish Hall

PRAYER: We prayed a decade of the Rosary together, with a special intention offered for Diane Myre

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

#### OLD BUSINESS:

All old business had been previously resolved, or is to be discussed under "Ongoing Business".

#### ONGOING BUSINESS:

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

(2) Parish Financial Update

#### NEW BUSINESS:

(3) Parish Financial Report

(4) Budget for 2023

(5) Christmas Giving Tree or some other means of reaching out to the poor

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Re (1): Under **Social Concerns**, Sue conveyed a message from Rachel that the Sunday chili dinner plans are well underway, with over 60 tickets sold. Fr. Michael mentioned the movie night over Christmas went well, although with a low attendance of just 12. Barb mentioned that the bulletin will highlight a weekly need of the Food Bank during Lent. Marie reported that the CWL will be supporting the Inner City Home with donations during Lent.

Under **Worship**, James reported that he had sent letters to both St. Charles and Marymount Colleges, asking if there were students interested in leading music at our Sunday Masses. There was no response from Marymount, and he is still waiting to hear back from St. Charles. There is no longer a music program at Laurentian University. The use of Spotify will continue, as it is an effective way to provide music at our liturgies. In the meantime, we will keep looking for the possibility of having a musician and choir, should that opportunity present itself to us. Fr. Michael indicated that the Ministers of Hospitality will no longer need to watch for the misuse of the Holy Eucharist at Communion time, as per an instruction received from the Bishop's office. At funerals, and other such liturgies when a large number of visitors are present, Fr. Michael will consult with Barb and her Hospitality team as to the need for such vigilance.

Under **Future Planning**, Fr. Michael reported that our Sunday Mass attendance has risen to (and stabilized) around 85-90 people each weekend. It is likely we will not return to our pre-pandemic numbers, so this might well be our new 'norm'. It is worth noting that with over 60 attending our Sunday dinner, that represents a large percentage of our parish family. Fr. Michael also mentioned that Bishop Thomas is analysing the data from the latest Census Canada results for religious attitudes in our Diocese, and will use that analysis to determine where best to invest our energy for evangelization. Fr. Michael may hear more about that before our next meeting. As per our previous meeting and the decision to offer the bulletin by email to those who request it, Fr. Michael reported that 3 subscribers, to date, have enrolled. Barb raised the issue of the South driveway to our Church, and the large dip that is there. She agreed to contact the city to see if they would repair this; it has been a longstanding issue that remains unresolved, so she will give it a new impetus.

Under **Youth**, it was reported that St. Charles College hired a new Faith Animator recently, to replace the retired Deacon Steve Callaghan. Deacon Bruno Michel takes over in that role. At the latest meeting of clergy, Deacon Bruno spoke of the challenges of connecting the Sudbury youth to events such as the youth leadership conference in North Bay.

Under **Pastoral Care**, Marie gave an update on those receiving Holy Eucharist at home, or who she will be visiting in the coming weeks/months. There is still a fear in our elderly of Covid-19, and a reluctance to open themselves up to visitors.

Under **Faith Formation & Spirituality**, there again was a wide ranging discussion on the options available for parishioners online for various programs, teachings and missions. Fr. Michael said he is keeping an open heart re: the possibility of something in the parish this Fall. The Chit Chat Ministry on Fridays is attended by around 8 people, give or take.

Re (2): Myron distributed a spreadsheet, showing our revenues and expenditures in comparison to our budget in 2022. It shows that we tracked close to our budget last year. No issues were raised. We generated just over \$5,000 in interest last year on our Diocesan deposit account.

Re (3): There were no issues with the proposed financial report to the parish, as presented. Just one change will be made, to reflect the interest generated last year in our new deposit total. The report will be inserted in the parish bulletin this weekend.

Re (4): The proposed 2023 Budget was presented and approved. It reflects the high level of inflation, which will hit us especially in heating, water and electrical costs. As to maintenance costs, this year we will be focusing on updating the Sacristy (with financial help from the CWL), repairing the walls in the kitchen storage room, and refinishing the black railings on the front stairs of the Church.

Re (5): Fr. Michael proposed, as part of our **Social Concerns**, a new way of serving the poor during Advent and Christmas, by utilizing a "Giving Tree", whereby parishioners are invited to buy a gift for a person in need, based on specific individuals made known to us. Everyone was supportive of the idea, and Barb and Pamela agreed to take on the organizing of this outreach.

**The meeting ended at 7:40 pm.**

NEXT MEETING DATE:      Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Parish Hall