

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Minutes

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio
Marie Bardswich – St. John's
Sue Quackenbush – St. John's
Barb Pineau – St. John's

Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John's
James Murphy – St. John's
Sheila Lapierre – St. John's
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 16th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

PRAYER We prayed a decade of the Rosary for the needs of Parishioners who are sick or suffering in any way.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Building issues: front stairs/furnace
- (2) Membership/new members
- (3) Bishop's pastoral visit: **January 25 – February 2, 2025**
- (4) Parish dinner on November 3rd

NEW BUSINESS:

- (5) Christmas Memorial Flowers
- (6) Advent Giving Tree

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- (7) Social Concerns, Worship, Future Planning, Youth, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation & Spirituality
- (8) Parish Financial Update

Re: (1) The addition of the center railing on the front steps of St. John's Church has increased significantly the safety of parishioners entering and leaving the Church. We will take time to evaluate the necessity of doing further work on the concrete surface of the stairs.

The furnace needs some minor repairs (parts replacement), but was described by our maintenance technician as being in far better shape than furnaces that are far newer.

Re: (2) No new members have come forward. After being invited to consider extending their terms, both Sue and Marie have agreed to do so. The PPC unanimously agreed to this extension. New members are always welcome, and we are still short of one representative from St. Bernardine's.

Re: (3) We will welcome Bishop Thomas Dowd to our 2 parishes from January 25th to February 2nd, 2025 for a pastoral visit. On the first weekend of his visitation, there will be a reception after all the Sunday Masses. In Skead, the Sunday morning Mass on January 26th will begin at 8:30am (possibly at 8am) in order to allow a longer time for a visit following the Mass. In Garson, both receptions will take place in the entranceway of the Church, rather than in the hall. During his pastoral visit, Bishop Dowd will visit St. John's School, celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, and meet with the PPC (January 29th) and the Parish Finance Committee (TBD). He will also be our guest at our 2nd Annual Parish Appreciation Dinner on January 31st.

Re: (4) The Parish dinner on Sunday, November 3rd will be pot luck. Doors will open at 4pm and dinner will begin at 5pm. Fr. Michael will supply wine (and will obtain insurance for the event). Fr. Michael will coordinate with the Falconbridge Legion who will be our guests at Mass that morning, and who will be enjoying a reception in our hall following the morning Mass, so that there is a smooth transition between events. Fr. Michael will also approach the Knights of Columbus to see if they are open to providing a Parish Breakfast on a Sunday, following Mass, before the end of this year. If not, we will plan on something in late Winter or Spring.

Re: (5) The money raised through our Christmas Memorial Flowers initiative will be donated to the Pregnancy Center & Infant Food Bank once again this year.

Re: (6) After last year's success with the Advent Giving Tree, we will follow the same format this year. Fr. Michael will approach the Principal at St. John's School for families in need of extra support. We will aim for about the same number of tags – 30. Fr. Michael will provide a way for parishioners at St. Bernardine's to participate, if they choose. Tags will be distributed on the First Sunday of Advent (December 1st), and gift wrapping will take place on the Third Sunday of Advent (December 15th).

Re: (7) In addition to what was already raised during this meeting under these categories, the following two items were added: On All Soul's Day (Saturday, November 2nd), Fr. Michael will celebrate Mass for all the deceased in St. John's Church at 10am, and then will celebrate a special blessing for the dead at St. John's Cemetery at 11am, with the blessing of individual graves following. On Friday, January 10th, we will have our annual Christmas movie day and pizza dinner in the hall of St. John's.

Re: (8) Myron distributed the financial statements showing our balances through the third quarter of this year. There are no issues of concern for either of our parishes. For our next meeting, Fr. Michael will provide a cost comparison for plastic candle inserts vs. glass candles for our Divine Mercy candle stand.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 7:15pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 4th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.