

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 **ABSENT**

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

Note: The three absent members sent their regrets; the snow storm prevented a couple of them from attending.

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 22nd at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

PRAYER We prayed a decade of the Rosary for the success of the Year of Jubilee in our Parish and in the Universal Church.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Bishop's pastoral visit: **January 25 – February 2, 2025 - Postponed**
- (2) Advent Giving Tree – A review
- (3) Parish breakfast – A review
- (4) Christmas movie day/dinner – A review
- (5) Jubilee Year – December 24, 2024 to January 6, 2026
- (6) Cost comparison of glass candles vs plastic inserts

NEW BUSINESS:

- (7) Easter Memorial Flowers
- (8) A June Event Proposal
- (9) Report on Mass attendance
- (10) Appreciation Dinner

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- (11) Social Concerns, Worship, Future Planning, Youth, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation & Spirituality
 - (12) Parish Financial Update (**2024 Parish Report; 2025 Budget**)
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Re: (1) No new information on when the Bishop will be able to reschedule his pastoral visit, which was unfortunately postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Re: (2) An unfortunate experience with one of the families, in which they tried to return a gift for cash, rather than an exchange, just 48 hours after the gift was delivered to the school. The return was credited to the parishioner's credit card, who expressed confusion about the turn of events. A lengthy discussion ensued about how we might focus the incredible generosity of parishioners in a way which benefits the needy of our local community most effectively. Some ideas floated were toiletry bags for men/women filled with sundries, and donated to the Garson Foodbank or other local agencies, and/or more symbolic gifts given to sick/shut in parishioners accompanied with a visit (poverty of loneliness). We will revisit this in the Fall, as we prepare for the 3rd Advent Giving Tree program.

Re: (3) About 55 attended; most everyone at the Sunday Mass attended, with a few others coming. Generally, it was seen as a success, with a very generous freewill contribution made to the Garson Foodbank.

Re: (4) About 22 attended; everyone stayed for pizza and wine after the movie. All reviews were positive.

Re: (5) Jubilee Rosary at the anticipated Mass on Saturday – will be led from the pews instead of from the pulpit (same as the Thursday morning Rosary).

Proposal to create a parish Jubilee photo album. Last one was in 2012; last attempt for one was cancelled due to problems with the photographer. Fr. Michael will inquire from IPC about the possibility this year, and Myron will speak to Ann (who coordinated the last attempted project) about her interest in looking at this project once again.

3 submissions have been made already re: "reasons to hope". We will ramp this up and begin to publish the submissions in the bulletin.

Survey re: a pilgrimage has been published; results are pending.

A local (Diocesan) pilgrimage is being planned; our parishioners will be able to participate. More information will be available once the website is live.

Re: (6) James was helpful in sourcing candles from Dollarama and The Dollar Store. Some issues with those suppliers was the availability of their product over time. Fr. Michael also did more research into our regular supplier. In the end, he felt it was best to stay with them, using a glass (recyclable) 5 day candle. We will switch to it once our supply of plastic refills has been used. The cost difference will be more manageable than the 7 day glass candles.

Re: (7) We will donate all contributions to the Hospice, as we did last year.

Re: (8) A proposal for a June BBQ, following one of our Sunday Masses. Fr. Michael will inquire with the Knights of Columbus to see if they are interested in hosting this. We will discuss this further at our April meeting.

Re: (9) Fr. Michael distributed a chart showing our average Sunday Mass attendance for the last 12 years. We have shifted from a stabilized attendance of around 140-150 pre-pandemic to one in the 75-85 range post-pandemic.

Re: (10) Last year's attendance was 56. So far, 54 have reserved this year, with less than 2 days left to reserve. So, it seems it should be a comparable event. Fr. Michael gave an update on the logistics for the evening. He will still order the chicken and pasta from the Caruso Club, but will source the buns and salad this year from Costco.

Re: (11) Marie reminded Fr. Michael (who forgot) that he is to look after the cake for the reception following next Wednesday's Confirmation. The reception will take place in the entranceway of the Church. Marie will look after all the beverages. She has purchased red paper plates for the cake, and has engaged the assistance of others for setting up.

Re: (12) Myron distributed a spreadsheet showing our 2024 financial statement compared to our budget. He also included a comparison of Sunday Collection/Total Revenue/Total Expense totals for the past 5 years, showing that our revenue stream (Sunday Collections) has been quite stable. Our budget quite closely matched our actual revenues, with expenditures coming in lower than expected. Fr. Michael will prepare a parish report, using the same model as in previous years, and send a draft to PPC members once the Finance Committee has approved it. It will then be published in the bulletin. There are no extraordinary expenses planned for 2025, so our budget will be modelled on the 2024 one. Once approved by the Finance Committee, it will be adopted. The PPC will see it at every meeting when Myron produces his reports. The only caution raised was that our financial situation benefits from not currently hiring a secretary or musicians. If that changes, we would have to plan accordingly.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 7:30pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 9th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.