

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

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

SPECIAL GUEST: Bishop Thomas Dowd

OTHER PARISHIONERS ATTENDING: John Robert (St. Bernardine's) and Muriel Denis (St. John's)

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

PRAYER: We prayed a decade of the Rosary for all our parishioners who are ill and/or struggling.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Bishop's pastoral visit: **October 18 – October 26, 2025**
- (2) Parish Fall Event – Dinner on October 23rd (tomorrow night)
- (3) Parish Photo Album
- (4) Kneelers in the Church
- (5) New PPC members
- (6) New coordinator for Ministry of Hospitality – Muriel Denis

NEW BUSINESS:

- (7) Christmas Memorial Flowers
- (8) Giving Tree

ONGOING BUSINESS:

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

Re: (1) We welcomed Bishop Thomas Dowd, and invited him to make some initial comments. He reflected on what his pastoral visitation has involved in our Parishes to date: Sunday Masses,

visit to Skead parishioners, meeting with the Baptist Minister, visit to the Garson Food Bank, meeting our Ward 7 Councillor, Weekday Mass and visit to the staff and students at St. John's School. In his Sunday homily, he already laid out the historical and pastoral background of what this visitation is about. He also mentioned that today is the 5th anniversary of his appointment as Bishop of our Diocese.

Re: (2) After some discussion about possible Parish social events between tomorrow's Parish dinner and the winter Appreciation Dinner, it was decided that a Parish potluck dinner might be a worthwhile pursuit during Advent, possibly on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12th). Since that type of social event is after our next PPC meeting and requires little planning, we will finalize this at our next meeting. Fr. Michael will also approach the Knights of Columbus about sponsoring a Parish Breakfast next Spring. There will be 61 Parishioners attending tomorrow night's Parish dinner.

Re: (3) Our Parish photo albums should soon arrive. Once in our hands, they will be quickly distributed.

Re: (4) A huge word of thanks to Myron for the extensive work he did on the design, manufacture and installation of our new kneelers. All the comments about them have been positive.

Re: (5) A reminder that we are still short of 2 PPC members: one for St. John's and one for St. Bernardine's. Muriel and John were reminded (without undue pressure) that they are welcome to join as representatives of their respective Parishes.

Re: (6) Fr. Michael thanked Muriel Denis for agreeing to be the new coordinator for the Parish Ministry of hospitality.

Re: (7) It was decided that our Christmas Memorial Flower donations will be forwarded once again to the Pregnancy Care Centre and Infant Food Bank.

Re: (8) After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that our Advent Giving Tree this year will focus on the residents of our local L'Arche communities. Fr. Michael will contact L'Arche to work out the details for providing gifts in the value range of \$50-100. Pamela will send Fr. Michael the information pertaining to last year's numbers in order to determine how many gifts we should plan on giving this year.

Re: (9) Fr. Michael mentioned we have one inquirer, a non-Baptized individual, who is part of the RCIA that has just begun in our parish. There may be another candidate, and Fr. Michael will open the RCIA educational component to all parishioners (Wednesday nights at 6:30pm).

We currently have 10 shut-in parishioners who are receiving the Holy Eucharist at home, through our Pastoral Care Ministry.

We are in the early stages of reintroducing the Altar Server Ministry in our Parish. Bishop Thomas mentioned this Ministry to some of the school children during his visit to St. John's School earlier today.

Bishop Thomas noted that “Evangelization” was missing from the list of 7 areas of focus under this “Ongoing Business” category. With his encouragement, we will add it. He noted that the 3 areas of focus needed for a stable Parish are Welcome/Hospitality, Music, and Preaching. For a thriving/growing Parish, what is needed additionally is Evangelization. The essence of Evangelization involves parishioners inviting others to come and experience what is good and uplifting in the parish – to share our joy. We will explore this area further in meetings going forward.

Re:(10)Myron distributed a spreadsheet showing our financials to the end of September. There are no concerns from either the Finance Committee or the PPC. There is still some questions around the furnace that we plan to resolve in the next month or so, but nothing that will impact our financial health.

Our meeting concluded with a prayer, led by Bishop Thomas, at 8pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 3rd at 6pm in the Parish Hall.