

Liturgy Committee Meeting  
January 12, 2015

The liturgy committee met at St. Pat's at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Deb Smith, Joanne Enyart, Lilia Tinderholt, Barb Ruff, Terri Strutt, Linda Miller, Julie Heitland, and Fr. Nils Hernandez. Absent from the meeting were: Blanca Schroeder, Linda Bacon, and Connie Leete.

The meeting was opened with everyone reciting the prayer "The Breast Plate of St. Patrick". The minutes from the November meeting were approved as written.

A review of the Advent and Christmas season was held including the liturgies and environment. Fr. Nils was appreciative that he had the extra time to between Postville and St. Mary's on Christmas Eve. Attendance at the 3 parishes was not as full as it was in the past but Christmas morning at St. Pat's was full. Fr. Nils will be doing some contemplating about the 4:00 p.m. mass on Christmas Eve. He will also look at a rotation schedule for these masses. People will travel to the mass that works best for them as was evident this year. We need to be welcoming to all who enter our churches. Fr. Nils would like to have music (singing/instrumental) as children are coming to the crib and returning to their seats.

Fr. Nils presented some information on the "Importance of Clear Communication, Liturgical Expectations, and Collaboration for Important Liturgical Celebrations." Communication needs to be clear and given immediately to the people that need that information. Fr. Nils will be following the expectations and recommendations of the church calendar for liturgies and environment. One of Fr. Nils' professors stated that if you want change in the church you have to become a theologian. This will lead to respecting all opinions while listening with humility thru prayer. Humility and respect are part of the clarity of communication and collaboration is important.

The following was discussed and decided upon in regards to the Lent/Holy Week/Easter season.

- Ash Wednesday – St. Bridget's will have mass at 6:45 p.m. and St. Mary's will have their usual morning at 9:00 a.m. with distribution of ashes. Andrew will be at St. Mary's for the evening service and Deacon Pat present at St. Pat's. All evening services will be at 6:45 p.m.
- Environments for Lent – Purple is the color for the décor with no green plants present on the altar. There should be a minimal amount of décor and very plain. The entrance chant will be done a cappella during Lent. There will be no closing song during lent – all will depart from the church in silence. The closing song is not called for in the GIRM but an invention of U.S. churches.
- Adult Faith Formation after daily mass – This presentation is on CD and will be held at each parish following the daily mass. The subject is about the Second Vatican Council and was donated to the cluster by a member. This is a 30 minute video with discussion to follow.
- Stations of the Cross – will be held in each parish on Wednesday evening at 5:30. We will need someone in each parish that is willing to lead them. April 1<sup>st</sup> stations will be at 6:45 p.m. with the Faith Formation students in

attendance. Stations are a devotion of the church that people can participate in.

- Holy Week Schedule – The services will be rotating among the 3 parishes. This year the rotation is as follows:
    - Holy Thursday – St. Mary’s at 7:00 p.m.
    - Good Friday – St. Pat’s at 6:00 p.m.
    - Easter Vigil – St. Bridget’s at 8:30 p.m.
  - Fr. Nils would like to have a cluster choir for all the celebrations during Holy Week.
  - Good Friday – according to church tradition Christ was crucified at noon and died at 3 p.m. This is the time that is recommended for the service but can be changed for reasons within the cluster/diocese. A priest must be present for this service. This is the only thing that is allowed on this day – no other masses or services may be held. There will be 2 songs sung.
  - Easter Vigil – this is the only mass that is allowed on this day as well. The archdiocese sets the time for the service based on the time of sunset. It must be dark before you can begin. The service will be simple as there are few candidates in the RCIA program at this time.
  - Communal Penance will be held at St. Patrick’s at 2:00 p.m. The date will be announced when Fr. Nils has priests lined up to help.
  - Anointing of the Sick – Many comments were received in regards to the one that was done and were glad Fr. Nils offered the sacrament in the fall. Another one will be offered the weekend of March 21/22. Instrumental music will be played during this time.
  - St. Blaise – Blessing of the Throats – This will take place on the weekend of February 7/8. It will be done after the announcement before the final dismissal. Instrumental will also be played at this time.
- Training and commissioning – A discussion was held on when to hold the training sessions for the following liturgical positions:
- Alter servers – will take place at each parish where the servers are familiar with the set up. Andrew will be involved in this training as well.
  - Lectors/Commentators
  - Eucharistic Ministers
  - Sacristans
  - Ministers of Hospitality

The discussion on when, where, and who, was tabled until the next meeting. Senior high youth will be invited to participate in these ministries. All are asked to reflect on this and bring idea to the next meeting.

The final discussion for the evening was to start looking at a uniform mass setting within the cluster. This will take effect with the Advent Season 2015. Fr. Nils would like to see consistency within the cluster as much as possible to make traveling to any church within the cluster more comfortable for all who attend. Change is hard but sometimes necessary for the good of all. There are some limitations based on what is available in the music issues at each parish. This discussion will continue over the next couple of months until a decision is reached.

The cluster picnic is scheduled for July 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Pike's Peak State Park. A brunch will follow the outdoor mass. The rain location will be St. Mary's Church in McGregor.

Our next meeting will be February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at St. Pat's. St. Bridget's will lead prayer and provide refreshments. Thank to St. Pat's for the refreshments. The meeting was closed with everyone praying the Our Father. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Heitland, secretary