

November

GRATITUDE PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Grow a more grateful heart in me.

I take You and others for granted far too often.

I get sucked into the busyness and stress of life and I just forget.

*I forget to see the multitude of blessings you give me
every single day.*

*I forget to stop and look for the good things
because it's so easy to dwell on the bad stuff.*

*Give me faith eyes to see You at work in my life,
answering prayers left and right.*

*Teach me to look around and appreciate the beauty in the world
You created for us– the sights, the sounds, the textures, the smells.*

*Help me dwell more in what I do have
than the things I don't.*

*Fill my mind and my heart with peace, joy, contentment and
overwhelming gratitude for all that You've done for me.*

*I want to fall even more in love with you
with a heart overflowing with thankfulness.*

I love You so much, God.

In Your Son's precious name, I pray,

Amen

Mass Schedule

Tuesday Thru Friday: 8:15am

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00pm Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

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PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting

Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: October 18, 2023 – 6:30 pm

Notes By: Padge Haas

Attendees: Father Adam Fernandez, Joe Herro, Alanna Wilgus, Joe Schueller, Audrey Szews, Kelly Ciriacks, Padge Haas, Sandy Schmidt, Tom Zimmerman, Suzzanne Silman, Carol Polivka, Duane Filtz, Mike Patterson, Rachel Blackwood, and Chris Multhauf

Excused: Mike Smrz

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. with an opening prayer by Joe Herro.

The agenda was approved.

Committee Reports:

Home and School: Rachel Blackwood reported that 100 families participated in Trick or Treat. She said preparation is underway for the Cookie House which will be held in December.

Day School: Carol Polivka stated the new sound system is up and running. She said that when people sign up to use a room, they will receive a key for the sound system. Chris Multhauf stated the biggest excitement in the school right now is the 8th grade trip to Washington, DC.

Buildings and Grounds: Carol Polivka said she has had a good response having people sign up to "Adopt a Bed." She needs about four additional people to offer to do this project. Get in touch with her if you are available and interested in this job. Right now they are cleaning the beds and getting them ready for winter. The committee is looking for donations to resurface the softball field.

Youth Formation: Mike Patterson reported that the REC program is off to a good start. He said that the program is currently at capacity unless they get additional catechists.

Prayer and Worship: Suzzanne Silman reported the committee is currently working on the theme of thankfulness for the month of November. They are also planning for the Advent Season. There will be a very quick turn a round from the fourth week of Advent to Christmas and they are working on how to accomplish that.

Stewardship: Duane Filtz reported the committee is getting ready for Stewardship Commitment Weekend on November 11-12. They are currently working on testimonials for the fall appeal. That video will be shown the weekend of November 4-5. There will be articles in the Bulletin the next few weeks regarding stewardship. They are going to have a "Top Five List" of needs this year. It will include Pastoral Council, Ushers and Ministers/Hospitality, A Youth Ministry Event, Stewardship, and growing a data base of people with their talents that can help on demand. There will be a handout before Commitment Sunday.

St. Vincent de Paul: Joe Schueller stated that the committee would do their annual Thanksgiving Collection on the weekend of November 4-5.

Continuing Business:

Pray and Play and Donut Sunday Recap: Audrey Szews reported that about 90 people attended the Pray and Play after the 10:30 am Mass on October 15th. She said she is getting good feedback. The Pray and Play will continue to be the third Sunday of the month. Duane Filtz reported that the Donut Sunday on October 15th was a success. The Pastoral Council will do the next Donut Sunday which will be November 19th. Kelly Ciriacks offered to spearhead that event.

Eucharistic Revival: Sandy Schmidt reported that Dennis Sylva has been listing Eucharistic Revival events in the Bulletin. Anyone can now sign up for the seven-week online course on the Eucharist. See the Bulletin for details.

Pastoral Council Invites: Joe Herro welcomed new members Kelly Ciriacks and Mike Smrz and thanked them for stepping forward.

New Business:

- A. Event Ideas for the Upcoming Year: Joe Herro said he had two ideas for opportunities for parish members to gather and be involved in the parish. The first idea was to have an event to get to know Father Adam better. Discussion followed. The Council decided to move forward with this idea and schedule an event in February with refreshments when Father Adam will share some of his life story. More details will be forthcoming. Another idea presented was to have a known speaker or two come to St. Joseph for a Saturday program. This could be done in conjunction with other parishes. It was envisioned it would be something like the program held at St. Joseph in 2015 when Allen Hunt spoke.
- B. SWOT Voting Results Discussion – creating OKRs: The Pastoral Council held a discussion on the findings of determining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the parish. They are trying to choose a weakness and establish objectives, initiatives, and ways to measure key results in dealing with the weakness. Chris Multhauf led the discussion. It was determined the weakness to work on first was youth formation. The first objective was to establish what defines “youth.” It was decided anyone under the age of 30 fit this category. The Pastoral Council decided they will develop and execute a strategy with this group. Communication will be a top priority. Mike Patterson said he would go back to the Youth Formation group to seek feedback. And the parish will reach out to this group to determine what this group wants. Several possibilities mentioned were to have a representative from this group on many of the parish committees including the Pastoral Council and a youth choir and youth participation in weekend liturgies. Ways to measure results would be youth attendance at Mass, youth participation in parish activities, and seeing youth understand their faith. This will continue to be a work in progress.

Miscellaneous:

Next Pastoral Council meeting will be November 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with a closing prayer by Joe Herro.

From your Prayer & Worship Committee

A Place to Honor and Remember our Faithful Departed

Let us all take some time during November to remember all of our faithfully departed family members and loved ones in a special way.

There will be a table under the St. Joseph statue in the Center Street entrance all of November. We encourage you to bring a photo or small memorabilia to place there- to pray there and to remember all of our loved ones whom God has called home.

(Please attach your name and phone number so your items can be returned)

We will also have a memory book for everyone to write your requested prayers and names of your loved ones.



Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Mass 9:00am Thursday November 23rd

No morning Mass on Friday November 24th

Be sure to watch the bulletin and the website for more information

ADVENT

1st Sunday of Advent ~ December 3

TREE OF LIFE collection

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses

Thursday December 7th @ 7:00pm

Friday December 8th @ 8:15am & 12:10pm

Parish Office will be closed on Friday the 8th

2nd Sunday of Advent ~ December 10

Candlelight Rosary ~ December 12

3rd Sunday of Advent ~ December 17

Hanging of the Green ~ December 17 at 3:30pm

4th Sunday of Advent ~ December 24

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on the same day as Christmas Eve, with Christmas Day on Monday.

The obligation to attend Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and on Christmas still stands.

Our Mass times will be

Saturday December 23 ~4:00pm as usual

Sunday December 24 - ONLY 9:00am Mass will be offered

Christmas Masses

December 24 ~ ~ ~ 4:00 pm & 10:00 pm

December 25 ~ ~ ~ 8:00 am & 10:00 am

St. Joseph and St. Agnes Parish Men, this is your personal invitation to a silent, preached retreat with a Jesuit Director in Oshkosh in February 2024!

(Ash Wednesday/Lent begins February 14, 2024)

We have room for up to 60 men to join us at The Jesuit Retreat House on the shores of Lake Winnebago just S. of Oshkosh. The main feature of this weekend is the SILENCE we keep.

WHEN?- Thur. Feb. 22nd for 7:00pm dinner until after 11:30am Mass on Sun. Feb 25th, 2024.

WHERE?- The Jesuit Retreat House 4800 Fahrwald Road, Oshkosh 54902, 1-920-231-9060.

WHO?- Men who want to continue a significant, examined life in a wonderful, quiet setting.

WHAT?- We plan to have Fr. Mike Graham S.J. lead us through the Spiritual Exercises during 8 preached conferences spread out within the retreat schedule.

WHY?- That's the real question.

Catholic author Matthew Kelly suggests to develop a daily habit of prayer, go on a pilgrimage, read spiritual books, read our Bible, learn to just be in God's presence and GO ON A RETREAT! You have your own room and the schedule you make can be your own. We do have the 8 scheduled conferences, 9 great comfort food buffet meals at 8am, 12 noon and 6pm daily. You can meet for private conferences/visits with the staff of the Retreat House. They all know how to minister to men. Jesuit's can be very helpful to advise us and challenge us to be greater versions of ourselves. We can be better husbands, fathers, parents and/or workers.

We have great Catholic sacraments like Daily Mass, Penance, an Anointing and Healing service as well as Rosary and Stations of the Cross. Plus we have great places to PRAY! You will have a Bible in your room, as well as a well-stocked library and many books on tape.

Asked for gift is \$440.00 but the value is PRICELESS. Some help on this cost is available.

"Enfold me in your heart."

By: Pierre Teilhard De Chardin S.J.

"Lord, enfold me in your heart; and there hold me, refine, purge and set me on fire, raise me aloft, until my own self knows utter annihilation." This is what I call a classic Jesuit prayer.

You can register by mailing or calling in a \$100.00 deposit to hold your room. Or you can visit the website www.jesuitretreathouse.org and register online. Dress is casual and comfortable. Consider bringing a dad, son, brother or friend along with you. Only sinners are welcome! "Behold God, beholding you."

We are group #009. Paul Christiansen, Dan Carlin and Mark Frederick are our coordinators. Questions? Email mark@frederickpkg.com or go to website.

KNOW YOU ARE INVITED. Is this the year you finally take another step towards our Lord? We'd love to have you join us on our yearly experience. VISIT THE WEBSITE! PLEASE! SIGN UP!

A sunset over the ocean with a white border around the text.

“

When evil darkens our world, give us light. When despair numbs our souls, give us hope. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When doubts assail us, give us faith. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. When ideals fade, give us vision. When we lose our way, be our guide! That we may find serenity in Your presence, and purpose in doing Your will.”

JOHN D. RAYNER

Synod on Synodality

Since October 2021, the Church has been engaged in a process of consultation and preparation for the 2021-2024 International Synod of Bishops. The theme for this international synod is, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” The Archdiocese of Milwaukee engaged in the consultation process in Spring of 2022, and the synthesis of our local dialogue was submitted in June of 2022.

Bishops and delegates from all over the world are arriving in Rome for the opening session, which begins with Mass on October 4, 2023, and concludes on October 29, 2023.

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” which has been historically used at Councils, Synods, and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville.

St. Joseph Congregation will pray this simplified version at all Masses in November, calling upon the power of the Holy Spirit: for the Synod, for our Holy Father Pope Francis, for bishops throughout the world, for all those who will gather, and that all may be attentive to the Holy Spirit.

For more information on the Synod for Synodality please go to the website www.synod.va/en

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.**

**Do not let ignorance
lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

TROOP 485 NEWS

Boy Scouting is a comprehensive program designed to prepare youngsters for responsible, capable adulthood. It provides a myriad of areas in which to develop interest, skills, and expertise. In Scouting, participants advance through levels of skills, which build upon each other. One of those required areas, which scouts study and practice, is First Aid. To advance from rank to rank, each scout needs to practice and demonstrate understanding of basic first aid procedures.

Recently, members from the various ranks in Troop 485 gathered at the Butler Fire Department for a volunteer session offered by Fire Fighters and EMTs, Ben Dall and Jacob Archibald, who themselves are graduates of St. Joseph School, were members of Troop 485, and are Eagle Scouts. The Scouts, accompanied by Mrs. Mendoza, Scout Master, and Mr. Peura, Assistant Scout Master, completed the majority of the 2nd and 1st Class Rank Advancement Requirements. The firefighters and scouts were also joined by Mr. Dall, who is himself a firefighter and EMT, and who also helped Troop 485 for years, and Mrs. Archibald, who is currently assisting the troop as an adult leader.



Left to Right
Ben Dall
Jacob Archibald
Troop 485 scouts
Mrs. Mendoza



Ben Dall Mr. Peura Jacob Archibald



Bandaging Demonstration



Practice



Drag Assist



Walking Assist



Two-Hand
Blanket Carry

Since October is Fire Prevention Month, scouts also discussed fire safety. Everyone had a great



Jacob Ben Mr. Dall
Members of Troop 485



For more information or to join Troop 485,
Please contact Mrs. Mendoza at
jenrose8383@gmail.com.

Fall is in the Air!!!

Field trips to the pumpkin farm and petting zoo! Picking pumpkins in the pumpkin patch, pony rides, farm animals and hay rides - what great fun for the students at St. Joe's!



Home & School would like to thank all of the families that braved the October weather for last Saturday's Trunk or Treat.

It was still a cold and wet success!

Congratulations to the Walczak, Zilles, and Boucher families for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd place wins!



