

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

Those present: Fr. Grant Gerlach, Kay Birkholt, Dan DeFries, Joshua Schuh, John Lane, and Joan Roe (recording secretary). Those who joined via ZOOM: Mary Kay Thompson.

Those absent: Julie Hill.

The opening prayer was led by Fr. Gerlach.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed prior to the meeting. Dan made the motion to accept the minutes as written and Josh seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business

3. Youth Program:

We are not currently holding any young disciple formation due to COVID-19.

Fr. Gerlach is meeting with Jaidyn Schuh to prepare her for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Deacon Craig & Margie Pearson are meeting with Dylan and Destiny Webb. They have been baptized but have not received First Communion or Confirmation.

Devan Crable has been through the RCIA program.

Fr. Gerlach is meeting with Braxton Novotny to prepare him for Confirmation.

New Business

1. Kay Birkholt spoke of the Liturgical Minister Retreat to be held this Sat., Nov. 21, 9-11a.
2. PPC Nominations – on hold for now
3. COVID19/Mass Update – Bishop Muhich gave guidelines to the priests in late September, but they didn't receive them until late October. Fr. Gerlach read the guidelines to the PPC Members.
 - a. Discussion was held on reintroducing some aspects of the Mass. Fr. Gerlach said it would be possible for him to chant the Mass parts vs. singing the Mass parts. Discussion was also held as to having instrumental music during the Communion procession.
 - b. Advent Sundays – Fr. Gerlach suggested that on the last 3 Sundays of Advent, we should not use EventBrite to sign people up for Sunday Masses to see what the response is for attendance. Several factors played into this suggestion, one of which is that our capacity (78 people) has rarely been filled. Fr. Gerlach stated that on average since COVID-19 began, we have had approximately 86% capacity (an average of 67.08%). Our average in Feb. 2020 was 167 ½ people. After a long discussion, it was decided that beginning with the first Sunday in December (2nd Sunday of Advent) we would

continue to use EventBrite but bump the number of parishioners who could attend to 90. We can increase that number if it deems to be necessary.

On another note: Fr. Gerlach and Josh will work on installing a video system so that Masses can be live-streamed on Sunday mornings.

4. a. Kay presented the PPC members with some ideas for Christmas Cards to send out to all the parishioners this Christmas. It would be a postcard format that would be put into an envelope. Fr. Gerlach suggested we also have a little card in there asking people if there was something they needed from the parish, such as prayer requests or a visit from someone. Kay said she would look at that.
b. Other Outreach – No discussion was held on this.
5. Drive-Thru Thanksgiving – Kay spoke to the group about this upcoming event. The HSMA Food Pantry, the Meals on Wheels program, and the American Legion have come together to put Thanksgiving meals together for anyone in Hot Springs to pick up. Reservations are required. St. Anthony's will be the distribution point for the meals, with the Legion Riders helping with traffic control. They expect they may be serving upwards of 700 people.
6. Upcoming Events – Listed on the agenda to make the PPC members aware of these events.

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held Thurs., Feb. 4, 6:15p via in-person and/or ZOOM.

Fr. Gerlach ended the meeting with a prayer.