

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

Those present: Fr. Grant Gerlach, Julie Hill, Mary Kay Thompson, Joshua Schuh, John Lane, and Joan Roe (recording secretary).

Those absent: Dan DeFries.

The opening prayer was led by Fr. Gerlach.

Old Business

5. Mini-Retreat held 11/21/20: Fr. Gerlach spoke about the Liturgical Minister Mini-Retreat which was held in November. There were approximately 10 who attended. The plan moving forward is to have a Ministry Fair in the spring; training for new and refresher training for current Liturgical Ministers (LMs) during the summer months; commission and re-commission of Extraordinary Ministers and blessing of new sacristans, servers, readers, and ushers/greeters/gift bearers during the month of October; Liturgical Minister Mini-Retreat for everyone in November; new LMs begin serving the first Sunday of Advent.

8. Christmas Outreach: Approximately 310 Christmas Cards we sent to the parishioners before Christmas this year. Several parishioners commented about the card, happy to receive it, etc. There was also a card included which parishioners could complete and return on which these questions were asked: Anything new or important?; Pray for...; Pastoral Visit?. Approximately a half dozen cards were returned.

7. COVID-19/Mass Update: There have been no changes in directives from the Diocese of Rapid City. The average attendance in December (when registration was still required) was 66. The average attendance in January (no registration required) was 88.

New Business

2. Parish Census: A parish census update will be held during the month of February. Parishioners will have the opportunity to pick up their census forms to make corrections, additions, etc. the first two Sundays of February after which time Fr. Gerlach will write a letter to go in with the census forms which were not picked up and they will be mailed out.

1. Lent: Stations of the Cross will be held on the Fridays of Lent at 5:30p. (a change in time from previous years). The groups leading the Stations will each decide whether they will or will not serve a simple meal of soup and bread following the Stations. Ash Wednesday is February 17th. There will be a 7a prayer service with Distribution of Ashes and a 6p Mass with Distribution of Ashes. Each parishioner will have the choice of either having their head sprinkled with ashes or receiving the sign of the cross with ashes on their forehead.

3. Upcoming Events: Pastoral Ministry Days will be held March 22 & 23, 2021. More information about this event will be forthcoming.

4. Mary Kay's letter to Fr. Gerlach: Mary Kay reached out to several parishioner who normally attend Mass but have not been attending due to the pandemic. Some parishioners would like masks to be required, and others are feeling shunned (not feeling like they are part of the parish anymore). Much discussion was held among the PPC members. A suggestion was made by Fr. Gerlach that we have one weekday Mass where masks will be required so those who have not been attending due to masks not being worn by everyone would feel more comfortable about attending. The decision was made that this first Mass will be held Tuesday, February 16, at 5:30p. Another suggestion is that notification be sent out to our parishioners when we have an event, e.g., First Communion, Confirmation, a Funeral Mass, or another special event so our parishioners would feel more a part of the parish.

The next PPC meeting will be held Thursday, March 18, at 6:15p in the Parish Hall.

Fr. Gerlach closed the meeting with a prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joan Roe
Recording Secretary*