**St. Gregory the Great**

**Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2021**

**Present**: Fr. Todd Budde, Barb Wilk, Eileen Lipinski, Jack Kelly, Jeff Senn, Chris Hodges, Jackie Konkol, Joey Kovnesky, Patti Penkalski and Lauran Vetuschi

**Excused**: Yolande Lasky, Donna Higgins and Michelle Zakula

The council meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

The Pastoral Council began with prayer.

Minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting were approved. Jack Kelly did provide commission notes for Evangelization.

**Father Todd**:

Mass attendance numbers have stayed consistent, averaging about 175 parishioners each weekend.

About 82 on Saturday

About 95 on Sunday

There were 118 parishioners at Christmas Eve Mass and 77 parishioners on Christmas Day. This is typical throughout the Archdiocese.

Father Todd gave a brief overview of priest numbers. There are 145 active priests and 159 retired priests.

Commissions will be begin meeting in January.

The website is continually being updated to keep the home page fresh.

Father Todd and Cindy are working through what Ash Wednesday Mass, Lent and Holy Week will look like while keeping all safety protocols in place. More information will be forthcoming.

**Patti Penkalski/Financials**

Patti circulated the financial statements for Council review. While the parishioners have been very supportive and generous, the parish is still hoping for some payroll protection.

The next Deanery meeting is April 28, 2021.

**Closing:**

Council closed with prayer and adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next Pastoral Parish Council meeting will be held on February 9, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Lauran Vetuschi, Secretary

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**Commission Reports**

The Parish Council Meeting will be held on February 9, 2021. The following are Commission minutes were provided from a representative of the Commission.

**Finance:** Jeff Senn and Barb Wilk

Patti Penkalski will circulate financials for review and discussion at the February meeting.

**Liturgy/Worship:** Lauran Vetuschi

Present: Jo Therese Fahres, Randy Green, Kim Kitzke, Mike Stewart, Charlotte Villwock, Cindy Bremeier

Absent: Lauran Vetuschi

Before Masses started up again in May, Cindy asked Liturgical Ministers if they felt comfortable being in church and helping in the various ministries.

**How the Church looks right now**

* ½ pews are blocked off throughout church, with 25%capacity (163 people). Never reached this capacity
* Permission from archdiocese to raise capacity to 33%

**Ushers: responsibility**

* Ideally need 6 ushers per Mass
* Ushers are at the doors (door #3 & door #9) 30 minutes before Mass to unlock and count people as they enter.
* Ushers direct the flow of traffic at Communion; people leave their pews and sanitize their hands before they receive.
* End of Mass, ushers dismiss people
* 4 pm Mass: We have 4 active ushers
* 9 am Mass: We have 6 active ushers
* There are no collection baskets passd; plastic boxes are on the tables at those doors along with hand sanitizer and Orders of Worship which are a single sheet for single use

**One Server per Mass**

* 3 young people stepped forward to serve at Mass at 4 pm
* 4 young people stepped forward to serve at the 9 am Mass.
* Masks are worn throughout Mass.
* Hand sanitizing protocols are in place for the servers.

**Human Concerns:** Michelle Zakula

Present: Geri Spankowski, Eileen Lipinski, Ronni Arriens, Michelle Zakula

Meeting opened with prayer

**Overview of the purpose of our commission (statement was approved by members):**

The purpose of the Human Concerns Commission is to ensure that each outreach ministry is represented within the parish. This is achieved by planning an outreach calendar for the year (to avoid conflicts) and by keeping informed of each outreach group and their plans. Additionally, the human concerns commission will look at new ways to reach out to our parish community and community at large through pastoral care and acts of charity and justice.

Discussion:

**Areas of Strength in Ministry**

Generosity of parishioners (you ask, they provide!)

SVDP Conference

Variety of Service opportunities

Care for the Elders of our parish

**Areas for Growth in Ministry**

Greater awareness of Justice/Justice Education

Opportunities to serve as a parish AND school community (together)

New volunteers/young adult and youth involvement

Discussion continued with ideas, as well as a need for a SMART GOAL for each area of ministry (Justice/charity and Pastoral Care). The committee will work to formulate these goals, as well as brainstorm ways to reach the goals (actions) at our next meeting in April.

**Stewardship and Community Building**

**Members Present:** Patti Penkalski, Joey Kovnesky, Jackie Konkel

* The Stewardship Committee has been inactive for many years and is being revitalized
* We are in a pandemic and at this point stewardship cannot operate many past practices such as in-person events – how can we engage parishioners in stewardship during a pandemic?
* St. Greg’s has historically been known as a welcoming parish community. What can we do to continue this? We are not doing enough in the pandemic
* Long terms focuses of this committee include drawing in a younger membership base and increased engagement with the neighborhood/community, but in light of COVID, we decided on current, immediate focus area of staying connected with current parishioners and how we can continue to connect and engage our current members, especially members who are currently not attending mass.
  + Idea for staff to create a “One-Word Video” – staff members think of a word or phrase to complete the sentence “We Miss Your…” and take a picture of themselves holding their sign. The pictures are edited together with someone (Father Todd or maybe the staff as a group?) ending the video saying that we miss you and can’t wait to see you again soon. Joey will edit the video together and it can be emailed out, posted on Facebook/website, linked in a QR code in the stewardship letter, etc.
  + Idea for weekly feature on the Facebook page to get to know staff members – a staff member is highlighted each week with either a video or picture, and an introduction from them
* We want to increase communication tools we use. Current communication platforms include website, bulletin, stewardship letter, and Facebook. Information now is regurgitated across all platforms. Focus on tailoring to different age groups. Increased use of electronic platforms can include direct links to videos, event pages, etc., as well as decreased mailing costs
  + Patti will ask Joel to be a part of the Stewardship Committee

**School**: Yolande Lasky

Nothing to report.