

## **Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council**

September 25, 2014

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Devon Atwell, Deacon Bob Digan, Charles Houff, Carol Lombardo, Deacon Jim McElroy, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Hilary Walker, Don Zukowski

EXCUSED: Joe Cox

ABSENT: Maggie Free

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:02 PM with a prayer.

### **II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

There were no minutes from our last meeting, which was a cookout.

### **III. Welcome New Member**

Fr. Sheaffer welcomed Devon Atwell as a Youth Rep to the Parish Pastoral Council for the coming year.

### **IV. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations**

#### **A. Stained Glass Class**

Fr. Sheaffer said that the class for the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be happening again this year. There will be three groups of four. Each course will run for three days. The first group begins on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and the last group will end on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **B. Monthly Sunday Gatherings (Joe Cox)**

October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> will be our last gathering until the Spring.

#### **C. Sacraments at St. Mary's School**

Holy day and monthly masses at St. Mary's School have been scheduled; individual Class Masses will be scheduled. Also, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated every month this year.

#### **D. Technology**

Mrs. DiSantis left St. Mary's School for another position in the public schools. Fr. Sheaffer has agreed to take her place in terms of web and internet activity for the school.

## V. Spiritual Life

### A. Confessions

A year ago in August we changed the Confession time from Saturdays at 3:00 PM to Saturday's at 3:15 PM; Fr. Sheaffer said that there have been more people going to Confession, possibly because the time is closer to Mass time. Once again, we will also have additional Confession times during the Lenten season – Friday evenings 5:30-5:55.

### B. Mass of Remembrance

Thursday, November 6, 2014 at St. Mary's in Lee. Followed by a reception at St. Mary's School. There are a number of events at the school that night; Fr. Sheaffer will check with Mrs. Furey to be sure that there are no conflicts. Charles, Sheila, Carol, and Don will help with the reception. Hilary will be the Sacristan; Devon will serve at Mass if he is available. Father will work on the format of the liturgy in the next couple of weeks.

### C. Holy Days of Obligation (2014)

November 1 – All Saints (Not an obligation this year because it falls on a Saturday, However, we will celebrate Mass on that morning at 9 o'clock at St. Mary's in Lee.)

December 8 – Immaculate Conception (There will be no vigil Masses because they would be celebrated on a Sunday)

### D. Thanksgiving Day (November 27)

Mass (Lee) 9:00 AM

Distribution of Loaves & Prayer Cards for use at the family meal to make a prayerful connection between the Thanksgiving of the Eucharist and the Thanksgiving meals we share with our families. We will need of few more of each than we had last year. Deacon Jim to facilitate this again this year. We will get 80 loaves. Fr. Sheaffer will get the prayer cards printed up.

### E. Advent

#### 1. Parish Mailing: Greetings/Schedule/Offering Envelope

Continue Lighting of the Advent Wreath by families at each Mass.

Hilary will coordinate Lee, Carol Lombardo will coordinate Otis, and Deacon Jim and Richard Lacey will coordinate Stockbridge.

#### 2. Advent Penance Service:

St. Ann's in Lenox – Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

St. Joseph's in Stockbridge – Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM

## F. Christmas

### Masses

#### Christmas Eve

4:00 PM (Lee)

5:30 PM (Lee)

#### Christmas Day

8:00 AM (Otis)

9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

11:00 AM (Lee)

## G. Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1)

### Masses

#### December 31

4:00 PM (Lee)

#### January 1

8:00 AM (Otis)

9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

11:00 AM (Lee)

## H. Lent

### Ash Wednesday – February 5, 2015

7:15 AM Mass (Lee)

9:00 AM Mass (St. Mary's School)

12:05 PM Service (Lee)

5:30 PM Service (Lee)

5:30 PM Service (Otis)

5:30 PM Mass (Stockbridge)

### Weekly

7:15 AM Mass on Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays/Fridays

7:15 AM Service of the Word on Wednesdays

5:30 – 5:55 PM Confessions on Fridays

6:00 PM Mass & Stations on Fridays

### Lenten Penance Service

Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 PM (Lee)

## Lenten Mission

TBA We had hoped to have Fr. Warren Savage as a mission leader but new responsibilities may keep him from doing so. He will let us know as soon as possible.

## I. Holy Week

March 28/29	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
March 29	Lenten Penance Service (Lee)
March 30	Mass at 7:15 AM
March 31	Mass at 7:15 AM Chrism Mass 7:00 PM (St. Joseph's in Pittsfield)
April 1	Service of the Word at 7:15 AM Living Stations at 6:30 PM
April 2 Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM Church open for private prayer until 9:00 PM
April 3 Good Friday	Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM Passion of our Lord at 7:00 PM
April 4 Holy Saturday	Blessing of Easter Food (Lee) 11:00 AM Easter Vigil at 7:15 PM (Tentative) (Lee)
April 5 Easter Sunday	8:00 AM Mass (Lee) 9:30 AM Mass (Otis) 9:30 AM Mass (Stockbridge) 11:00 AM Mass (Lee)

J. First Communion                      Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 9 AM in Lee  
Followed by breakfast at St. Mary's School.

K. Confirmation                              Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 2 PM in Lee

## VI. Technology/Communications

### 1. Parish Website

Homilies and homily archive are available online

Funeral Information is available

Council members were urged to encourage parishioners to make use of the website which has virtually all parish information on it. Sheila Viale expressed that she likes being able to read the homilies online.

### 2. Facebook

Nothing new to report.

## **VII. Religious Education/Sacramental Preparation**

Libby Collins is the Coordinator; classes begin on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **VIII. Christian Service**

This week we are running a Food Drive for the Lee Food Pantry; we are doing this in conjunction with the school.

We are hoping to have our Annual Winter Coat Drive on the weekend of October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

## **IX. Our Lady's Oratory**

The Knights of Columbus donated some new cushions.

## **X. Old Business**

Parish Picnic: Shaun Hall and Rick Methe volunteered to co-chair the event. Founder's Weekend and other events created a huge conflict and we could not schedule it for this month. Shaun and Rick would like to schedule one for June 2015.

## **XI. New Business**

Catholicism Series

Parishioner Chris Sparks has asked to run Fr. Barron's series "Catholicism." This program was run during Lent of 2013, so there was some concern about running it a second time so soon and about the fact that there was not much interest the last time it was run. There was discussion about time and the frequency of the sessions. Fr. Sheaffer will meet with Chris to discuss logistics and to determine if it is worth running at this point.

Stewardship

We will be making an appeal for a greater sense of stewardship in the parish, including increased giving. With the resumption of school support, we are running a deficit and there are many, many issues with all our facilities that cannot be addressed because of a lack of funds. We are working with the Cuneen Company on this project.

## **XII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at St. Joseph's in Stockbridge on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM at St. Joseph's Rectory in Stockbridge.

## **XII. Closing Prayer**

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:39 PM.