

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council

September 24, 2015

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Devon Atwell, Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Charles Houff, Richard Lacey, Carol Lombardo, Deacon Jim McElroy, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Hilary Walker, and Don Zukowski

EXCUSED: Anita Curtin, Kara Curtin, Deacon Jim McElroy, and Sheila Viale

ABSENT: No one

I. Opening Prayer

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with a prayer.

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

There were no minutes from our last meeting.

III. Welcome New Members

Fr. Sheaffer said that Anita Curtin and Kara Curtin will serve as Youth Reps to the Parish Pastoral Council for the coming year. They were unable to attend this first meeting.

IV. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations

A. Stained Glass Class

Fr. Sheaffer said that the class for the 8th Graders will be happening again this year. There will be three groups. Each course will run for three days. The first group begins on Monday, September 28th the second group begins Monday, October 26th and the last group will begin on Monday, November 30th.

B. 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.

V. Spiritual Life

A. Mass of Remembrance

A Mass remembering all those buried from our parish during the past year will be celebrated on Monday, November 2, 2015 at St. Mary's in Lee. Followed by a reception at St. Mary's School. Joe and Hilary will help with the candles this year. Charles will also help out.

B. Monthly St. Jude Mass

This will be moved to the second Thursday of each month (except when it conflicts with a holy day of obligation) beginning October 8.

C. Holy Days of Obligation (2015)

November 1 – All Saints

December 8 – Immaculate Conception

D. Thanksgiving Day (November 26)

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. We will ask 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

2. We will resume the practice of the Lighting of the Advent Wreath by families at each Mass.

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

2. Advent Penance Service:

St. Ann's in Lenox – TBA

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 10, 2016

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

We will have the Lenten Soup Suppers again – presumably on Tuesday evenings again. It was suggested that we advertise them on CTSB.

Lenten Penance Service

Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 3:00 PM (Lee)

I. Lenten Mission

We had a discussion about last year's mission with Msgr. Bonzagni. Msgr.'s presentation and content were well received. It was also noted that the Tuesday through Thursday format worked well. We are not sure who we will get for next year. It was suggested that Msgr. Bonzagni could be asked again as well as Fr. Geoff Deeker. Fr. Sheaffer will make contact.

J. Holy Week

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| March 19/20 | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord |
| March 20 | Lenten Penance Service (Lee) |
| March 21 | Mass at 7:15 AM |
| March 22 | Mass at 7:15 AM Chrism Mass 7:00 PM (St. Joseph's in Pittsfield) |
| March 23 | Service of the Word at 7:15 AM Living Stations at 6:30 PM |
| March 24 Holy Thursday | Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM Church open for private prayer until 9:00 PM |
| March 25 Good Friday | Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM Passion of our Lord at 7:00 PM |
| March 26 Holy Saturday | Blessing of Easter Food (Lee) 11:00 AM Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM (Lee) |
| March 27 Easter Sunday | 8:00 AM Mass (Lee) 9:30 AM Mass (Otis) 9:30 AM Mass (Stockbridge) 11:00 AM Mass (Lee) |
| K. First Communion | Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 9 AM in Lee Followed by breakfast at St. Mary's School. |
| L. Confirmation | Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 2 PM in Lee (Tentative) |

VI. Technology/Communications

1. Parish Website

Homilies and homily archive are available online, along with an audio file.

Wedding information has been expanded. We are planning to expand our funeral planning resources next.

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

We have been updating it much more frequently.

VII. Religious Education/Sacramental Preparation

Melissa Kelly is the Coordinator; classes begin on September 27th.

Fr. Sheaffer and Deacon Jim are working together on Confirmation. Deacon Bob and Maureen Digan will be giving a presentation at one of the classes. There will be a Confirmation Retreat, utilizing the ministry of New Spirit, Inc. and this will take place at St. Ann's Church in Lenox where the candidates will joining St. Ann's students for the retreat. Also, Christian Service requirements have been added to the Confirmation program.

VIII. Christian Service

- A. Fr. Sheaffer met some people from an organization that works with migrant workers in our area. Thatcher Kent was the name of one of the individuals. Thatcher indicated to Fr. Sheaffer that he collaborates with St. Mark's Church in Pittsfield. We are looking at the possibility of doing a collection of back-to-school supplies for migrant workers' children next year.
- B. Joe Cox said that the Christian Center in Pittsfield I looking forward to our October Coat Drive.
- C. We will gain participate in the Dreams of Joy drive in November and December.
- D. In January we will hold our Personal Care Needs Drive.
- E. During Lent we will again participate in Operation Rice Bowl, a ministry of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). We would like to hold the CRS Fair Trade Sale every other year and it was suggested that catalogs be available early to spark interest.

IX. Our Lady's Oratory

- A. There are some empty timeslots. It was suggested that we advertise the available timeslots on Facebook.

X. Old Business

- A. The “Back to the Future” activities will have to be at a later date because, after a conversation with Mrs. Furey, we noted that there were some significant calendar conflicts.
- B. The Life Teen Mass is progressing. Colleen Free has been pulling a band together and we are hoping to start in some small way in the coming weeks.

XI. New Business

- A. There were some finance and facility questions that some folks posed to one of the members of the Council. Fr. Sheaffer referred those to the Finance Council, since the Pastoral Council focuses primarily on the pastoral mission of the parish.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at St. Joseph’s Rectory on October 22, 2015 at 6:00 PM at St. Joseph’s Rectory, 11 Elm Street in Stockbridge.

XIII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:41 PM.