

**We the people of St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church, as Christ's Body,
Strive to be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus Christ**

Parish Pastoral Council ("PPC") Meeting - Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Present: Fr. Bodin, Sheila Bianconi, Joshua Bohl, Cheri Brausen, George Burr, Don Hohn, Robert McMullan, Amy Moore, Keith Sjostrom, Ron Peterson, Kelly Summerville, and LeAnn Zogg

Excused: Fr. Mike Anderson, Paul Siler

Opening Prayer – The meeting was opened with prayer.

Committee Reports:

a. Faith Formation

- Have pre-k in the Church on Sundays
- Liturgy of the Word is taking place online on YouTube
- Reconciliation was last weekend
- 152 total kids in the program
- Mission Possible boxes
- Commitment Sunday this past Sunday at Mass for confirmation students
- For adults there is a Zoom series starting during Lent
- The Search – new program for adults – shown preview at Mass this past weekend
- Scott Frieler is doing a great job in his role of Director of Faith Formation – St. Joe's Faith Formation program is in great shape

b. Liturgy

- Everything went well through Christmas
- Less flowers at Easter than usual
- Unsure how Easter Masses will play out – may have to add another Mass
- There is a plan on how to distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday – in Europe ashes are sprinkled on peoples' foreheads – waiting for final word from Archbishop Hebda on how to distribute ashes this year – don't want to touch peoples' foreheads due to sanitary reasons
- Right of Election Mass is February 21
- Year of St. Joseph – waiting to hear more on what this means for us
 - A Bishop will say Mass here at St. Joe's sometime in April, thinking it will be an afternoon Mass, but TBD – April is the month our Church will celebrate the Year of St. Joseph
 - A speaker will also come for an event in April
- There is a need for more ministers – current ministers will ask people attending Mass to consider being a minister – hoping for better success than running add in the bulleting
- Now there will be 4 Eucharistic ministers and 4 hospitality ministers at every Mass

c. Social Justice

- Still working on Jan. report, will talk with Denise
- See February handout attached

d. Pastoral Care

- Next meeting is Feb. 22
- Trying to get out and meet with people as much we can
- Barb has been collecting valentines for the residents
- A lot of people are reaching out to Barb about being lonely or depressed
- If visit, it is at front door as can't come into homes

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e. Community Life

- Want to have two Friday fish dinners in March
 - If it goes well, there may be two more – it will be take-out and will reduce pricing from last year
 - Will open up both kitchens for extra space
 - TBD if people will have to pre-register
- Six months from now is Summer Festival
 - Feb. 25 is first festival meeting of the year
- Fr. Mike expected to be back “soon” – no exact date, but might come back sometime in March

f. Facilities

- Ceiling tile and lighting replacement in St. Joe's hallway is complete
- Ceiling tile and lighting replacement in hallway and entrance to the Great Hall as well as ceiling tile and lighting replacement in Room #23 are next to-do's
- See handout for complete project list
- Next meeting is on Thursday
- #1 priority is making St. Joe's safe and welcoming
- It is best for COVID vaccination sites to be at pharmacies and doctors offices – too many requirements for St. Joe's to be a vaccination site

g. Communications

- Continue to work on wi-fi upgrades
- Very exciting news – old hardware will be taken out of St. Joe's – computers will be wiped clean and old batteries, TVs, cords, etc. will be taken and discarded
- Bulletin Insert will be mailed to the homes of those 65+
 - See attached Bulletin Insert

h. Finance

- Financial report mailed out to parishioners last week
- Announcement recorded for this weekend's Masses giving current state of finances, asking parishioners to continue to give as collections are down

i. Synod

- See DMI discussion below

DMI Discussion:

- Sharing personal stories
 - St. Joe's is very good at being reactive – if somebody needs us, we are there – we can be better at being proactive
 - 21% of St. Joe's has personal relationship with Jesus – Archdiocese average was 33% - lowest age group with personal relationship with Jesus was age 35-56
 - Regarding 35-56 age group, often times both parents are working and weeknights are busy with kids' sports, activities, etc. – not much time for church activities
 - Difficult to invite people in
- We are more than 5% below average in all categories but one (Welcoming was the exception) when comparing St. Joe's to other parishes
- Top 3 parishes have 65%-72% of respondents saying they have personal relationship with Jesus Christ – our parish has 21% who said they have personal relationship with Jesus
- Less engaged than we want to be – want to see more volunteerism, small group attendance, move involvement other than just attending on Sunday

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- A lot of undecided answers
- Did well at being welcoming parish
- Did not do well forming discipleship
- A lot of people didn't feel the Church is important in forming a relationship with God
- Roughly 1/3 of the respondents were men, 2/3 were female
- Music listed as detractor
- 85% of respondents said they spend individual prayer time with God at least monthly.
- Only 7% of respondents said they 'strongly agree' that they have the confidence in the Church's teachings to answer other's questions. 36% said agree.
- Communication
 - Have to do more to communicate than just the bulletin, especially since not as many people are coming to Mass now with COVID
 - People more likely to say yes to personal invitation than responding to something they see in bulletin
 - Be intentional about reaching out to parishioners
- How do we get people to say "I want what he/she [Catholic person] has" – that is what draws people to come to Church

Wrap-up:

- Next Meeting: March 2, 2021 at 7 pm.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

Social Justice

We were soooooo busy November and December!!

First we had some social justice education pieces go out to all the kids in the way of our 'Mission Possible Detective Kits'. An activity box full of prayers, information and coloring sheets and contest about Saints, Activities to do at home to take care of our earth, our neighbors, and the world. There were some fun treats and art projects for the kids too. We will continue the kits in collaboration with FF.

We collaborated with Kelly Thurmes, who did an amazing job of putting together the drive through nativity. She spent time daily making sure it was running properly and no angels or stars were blowing away! What a special way of drawing the community close to us and sharing the Christmas story!

Giving Trees - We saw in December a huge increase in the number of families in need in our community, locally, in White Earth, in Guatemala. But we also saw an increase in incredible GENEROSITY from St. Joe's! We served 22 local families from the Giving Trees, approximately 200 children and families on the White Earth Reservation, and a community in Guatemala received food and education assistance as well as some computers.

We served our local agencies through meals – Loaves and Fishes, Stepping Stones, and others through some financial and some much needed items –Feed My Starving Children, Stepping Stones, especially our Centennial Food Shelf. Of note: we also worked with the Centennial Ministerium to make sure all Centennial High School kids were given gift cards to ensure food over their Christmas school break.

In January we will spend some time focusing on Alexandra House and on a women's empowerment and cooperative in Guatemala so we can help more families move out of poverty and experience the dignity and love of God and neighbor they deserve. We are also going to be educating our own children on the theme 'Light in the Darkness' and have a new social justice/ ff kit to send out to them. We will continue to serve meals.

*January
2021*

Date= FEBRUARY 2ND 2021

FACILITY COMMISSION CHURCH PROJECT'S

ITEM	BASE PRICE	DATE COMPLETED
#1) CEILING TILE REPLACEMENT IN ST. JOE'S HALLWAY'S AND LIGHTING	\$12,250.00	1/8/2021
#2) CEILING TILE AND LIGHTING REPLACEMENT IN HALLWAY AND ENTRANCE TO THE GREAT HALL	\$12,433.00	
#3) CEILING TILE AND LIGHTING REPLACEMENT IN ROOM #23	\$3,790.00	
ITEM #2 & #3 TOTAL	\$16,223.00	
#4) EDUCATION WING AND ST. JOE'S HALL DOOR REPLACEMENT 3 DOOR'S	\$10,558.00 (EACH)	
#5) ADDITIONAL HANICAP PARKING		
#6) WATER HEATERS REPLACEMENT (2)	\$5,189.00	
#7) WORSHIP SPACE A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT	\$60,000.00	

UPCOMEING PROJECT'S

- #1) INTERIOR LIGHTING UPGRADE EDUCATION WING6**
- #2) SECURITY**
- #3) FIVE (5) YEAR PLAN**
- #4} ST. JOE'S HALL BATHROOM UPGRADE "TILE"**
- #5} PAINT DOOR FRAMES (8)**

***-- Approved by the Finance Commission**

A New Year – A New Beginning! 2020 is behind us – Whew!! It's been quite a ride and one we hope not to be on again. With this New Year, we're adding a monthly insert to our bulletin filled with news of our community – both church and surrounding area. You'll find lots of interesting tid-bits and stories and we hope you'll share some of yours.

In the Covid era many of us are struggling with the loss of community. We're not seeing our families and hugging those we love. We're not dining out with friends. We're not gathering for football games, hockey games, card games, or celebrations of any kind. There is a sense of loss we've not experienced before.

We hope this will help us to again feel more a part of our community. Let us know what you think and how we can be more community within these pages.

Our Neighbors in the Pew

We have worshipped with many people over the years. Some we know well. Others – not. So let's take some time to get to know one another.

John & Terry Mac Donald



John hails from Albany, NY. His affiliation with St. Joe's began when he was hired as a Director of Religious Education back in 1978 after he had completed his Master's Degree at St. John's University in Collegeville. It was while there that he met Terry who was teaching in St. Cloud. They

were married in June of 1979, and after that Terry also became a part of the St. Joe's community.

John & Terry's daughter and two sons all graduated from Centennial High School. Two of them went to college in Iowa and one in MN. One of their sons also served in the Air Force. They also have two grandsons and a granddaughter.

John's favorite hobby is fishing. During the winter when

he can't get out on the lakes, he reads about and watches videos on fishing. Terry's favorite hobbies are reading and planning things to do with their grandchildren. Both enjoy traveling, especially road trips! During the summer of 2013, they traveled Route 66 from Chicago all the way to California. They have visited many MN state parks where they like to hike. That activity has been curtailed in the last several years while John had a knee replacement and a couple of back surgeries.

During the isolation brought on by Covid 19, family visiting has been in the backyard or in the yards of their children. Going to parks where they can be outside together has also helped them keep in touch. They have come up with ways to stay busy at home with games and jigsaw puzzles, re-watching their collection of movies, reading, cleaning and organizing the house, fixing up the flower bed and, of course, relying on their favorite TV shows.

They enjoy the hospitality found at St. Joe's and are proud of our beautiful church & church environment, the many programs offered, the music at all of our services, the many community outreach programs that St. Joe's sponsors and the parish staff for their talents and dedicated work.

Lemonade from Lemons

Many of us are really struggling right now. Isolation, unemployment, home schooling, working from home – all taking a toll on us. Our mental health is slowly deteriorating and we're feeling scared and uncertain about our future. How do we move from day to day with all of this to deal with? How do we make lemonade from such sour lemons?

Let's start with our mental health this month. Mental health professionals offer several options to help us cope. Here are a few.

- Sleep. It's important to rest our bodies and our minds. Energy resources are easily depleted during times like these.
- Nutrition. Eating healthy is essential to being and staying healthy. Eat an extra fruit or vegetable today.
- Meditation. Just a few quiet moments to think of nothing is a major rejuvenator. Allowing the spirit within to speak to us provides new energy for coping.

Lemonade from Lemons—Continued

- **Connection.** Call a friend or neighbor. We may not be able to go out for a cup of coffee or glass wine, but we can still share our lives with one another.
- **Hobbies.** If you don't have one, try one. It doesn't have to be elaborate or expensive. Crossword puzzles, coloring books, paints, jigsaw puzzles, baking, all offer a break from the pressures we're experiencing.
- **Exercise.** We hear this one a lot! But it works. Exercise outside if you can. Fresh air is great. Or do a few jumping jacks, slide across the wood floor, dance to music, walk in place, play catch with the kids, lift a couple soup cans above your head a few times. All movement counts :-)

Read any Good Books?

This will be a regular feature. We'll review books of all kinds. Maybe you have a favorite that you would like to share. Let us know. Here are a couple for consideration.

White Fragility – While It's so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo.

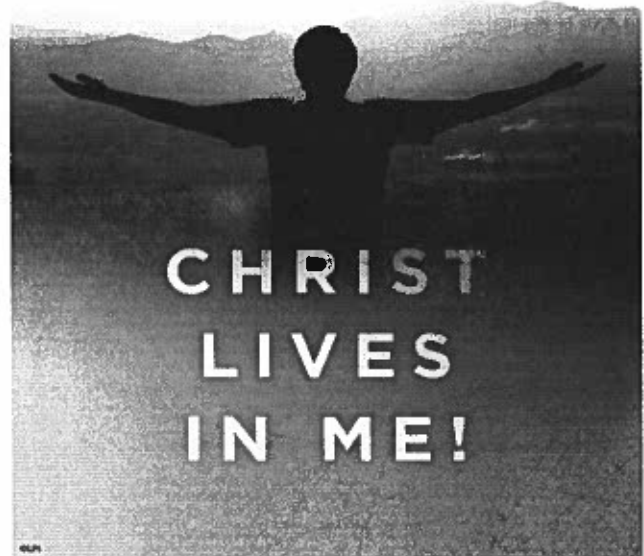
This past year has really brought into focus the disparities and agonies experienced in non-white communities. It's difficult to talk about these things. Robin DiAngelo does a remarkable job of helping us understand why that is. To truly make changes in our society, we need to understand some of the mechanisms at work that often hold that back. This is a must-read for those of us determined to move forward in changing society and the social structures that hinder each of us from living up to our potential as children of God.

The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri J.M. Nouwen.

We have all know loneliness, rejection, anger and jealousy. We have all had feelings of hopelessness and dejection, feeling unworthy to be loved. We have all had occasions where we've been tempted to withhold our love. This remarkable meditation of a very familiar story will uplift and inspire. Nouwen is familiar to many. I believe this is one of his best writings.

Serving You

Our parish can be a wonderful resource when you find yourself in need. Barb Uschold Anderson, our Director of Pastoral Care is available to provide assistance in accessing mental health care, food and housing assistance, and spiritual care. She has put together a list of community resources which is on the following page. You may want to hang it up in an easily accessible location and share it with family and friends. She can be contacted at 651-784-3015 x112.



“... be strong in the Lord and in the source of his power.” (Ephesians 6:10)

This is OUR community, so . . . We would love to highlight you in *Our Neighbors in the Pew*. If you've read any good books you'd like to share, let us put your review in our *Read any Good Books?* Are there any Community events to publicize that you think would be of interest—these suggestions are welcome. We're here for you. Please contact Ivy Cavegn at icavegn@msn.com, with your ideas, suggestions and contributions. No guarantees we can accommodate everything, but we want to hear from you.

Blessings on your day. We are grateful for each of you.