WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

Minutes of Worship & Spirituality Commission

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Present: Paul Bobay, Joseph Glykys, Karen Hanson, Donna Jondle, Mick Langguth, Mary Kelley, Mike Kelley, Sandy O’Brien, Janet Steenlage, and Fran Zuber.

The prayer was led by Fran Zuber.

Approval of the Minutes: Mike Kelley moved to accept the November minutes as written and Paul Bobay seconded.

PAST EVENTS

**November 28: First Sunday of Advent—**An Advent Wreath home blessing was added to the bulletin on the weekend of November 27/28. *“Lord Jesus, we gather here in Your name today in preparation to celebrate the wonder of Your birth. Winter has now come with its cold and dark, and we want to be with You, our Light, more than ever. We ask You to give us the happiness which we desire. As we light this candle and think about how much we love You and each other, come into our midst and make holy our little gathering. Amen.”*

A note was added to the bulletin the weekend prior to alert parishioners that the blessing of the Advent Wreath will be done at the 5:15 p.m. Mass on November 27. *“The blessing of the St. Thomas More Advent Wreath will be done during the 5:15PM Mass on November 27th. This is only done once during the Advent season so please join us at this time.”*

The Advent Wreath (four candle pillars) is beautiful. Carol Johnson, former parishioner, designed this display and helped put it together. Mary Kelley noted that the greenery and the candles are artificial so this display can be used for multiple years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 8 (Wednesday): Feast of Immaculate Conception—**Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Mary Kelley created a Signup Genius for ministry at these Masses. Most of the ministers are in place but there is a need for ushers at the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

**December 13 (Monday): Reconciliation 7:00 p.m.--**A simple dinner for the Priests attending this event will be held as follows: Mike Kelley will provide chili; Fran Zuber will provide cornbread; Janet Steenlage will provide veggies; and Sandy O’Brien will provide dessert. The dinner will be served in the basement at 6:00 p.m. (food delivered by 5:00 p.m.) We are planning for ten priests to attend.

**Christmas Masses—**Mary Kelley will work with Katie Schneider to create Signup Genius signups for these Masses.

**Christmas Eve (Friday) 4:00 p.m. Children’s Mass:** Blanca Lenertz and Luigi Enriquez are organizing the children’s pageant for this year. The event will be much smaller than in past years due to COVID considerations. Sacristans will plan for an increased number of attendees at this Mass. *10 EMs plus Father Chuck; 8 ushers if possible.*

**Christmas Eve (Friday) 8:00 p.m. Mass:** 30 minutes prior to the start of this Mass we will meet to sing Christmas carols. *8 EMs plus Father Chuck; 6 ushers*.

**Christmas Day (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. Mass—***4 EMs plus Father Chuck; 4 ushers.*

**January 1 (Saturday): New Year’s Day--** Mary Kelley will work with Katie Schneider to create a Signup Genius signup New Year’s Day 9:00 a.m. Mass.

*Notes:*

Since Christmas Day is a Saturday, we will have the 9:00 a.m. Mass for Christmas Day and cancel the regular Saturday evening Mass. The Sunday morning (December 26) Masses will be the only Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family.

Also, since New Year’s Day is Saturday, a 9:00 a.m. Mass will be held in the morning for New Year’s Day, but we will cancel the Saturday evening Mass. Sunday Masses on January 2 will be normal for Epiphany Sunday.

The Sunday, December 26, and Sunday, January 2, Masses will follow the regular schedule and ministers will be assigned through our regular process.

**January 2 (Sunday): Masses will celebrate Epiphany**—Paul Bobay will create blessing cards with chalk for houses and a note for the bulletin. Paul will plan on 300 cards for distribution at the Sunday, January 2, Masses.

ART & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – Mary Kelley

* Advent decorations will be taken down and Christmas will be put up on Thursday, December 23, after 9:00 a.m. Mass.
* Christmas decorations will be taken down and decorations for Ordinary Time will be done on Monday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m.

The creche will be put up outside the third weekend of Advent (December 11/12). The stable will be empty. There was a discussion about how this process went last year which was the first time this display was put outside instead of in the narthex. Since parishioners could not enter the church last year the thought was that people would be able to enjoy seeing it if it was outside. Mary Kelley noted that the display was very well received and many families visited it.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS – Pamela Bourjaily/Karen Hanson/Mick Langguth/Joseph Glykys

Karen Hanson reported on the engagement of our parish in the Synod. Only 37 dioceses in the United States are currently participating. St. Thomas More has two parishioners representing us.

The Pastoral Council is working on a basket to be included in the auction during the Mardi Gras celebration to support the St. Thomas More Youth Group.

To help us achieve the $1.5 million left to be pledged in our $7 million goal for our new worship space, we are presenting a new push for pledges. An anonymous parish member has presented the following challenge: From now until the end of the Christmas season, $100 will be given for every new pledge/gift. And, for everyone who has already pledged and who is willing to raise their pledge/gift by 20%, $100 will also be given to GMIF.

ITEMS FROM FATHER CHUCK

See previous notes.

NEW BUSINESS

An idea to increase ministry participation was presented by Sandy O’Brien. The idea would highlight participation weekly during Lent. The commission has given Sandy their support to propose this to Father Chuck.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 6, 2022**