

Blessed Trinity
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2024 6:30 PM Catholic Life Center-Parish Meeting Room

Blessed Trinity Council Members Present: Deb Hasler, Kelly Jens, Terry Rotter, Sarah Schueffner, Jim Klich, Sandy Jordan, Chris Audino, Scott Birenbaum, Mary Jo Schultz, Tim Woodworth, Mason Klahn and Fr. Jonathon Schmeckel

Excused Absence: Sam Steckbauer

Call to Order: Tim Woodworth

Committee Presentation – Religious Education – Lisa Gross

Lisa gave an update on the Religious Education program. There are 93 students enrolled in the kindergarten through high school programs. There have been a few challenges including lack of consistent attendance and poor student behaviors. Lisa is constantly thinking of ways to improve and overcome these challenges. Many Catholic churches have had fewer students attending Religious Education programs so this is not an isolated issue. Religious Education does not seem to be the priority for many families. All of the classes at Blessed Trinity are set up to be taught online. Parents opted for the online class one evening when there was bad weather, but the majority of students did not complete the work. There are some requirements set by the Archdiocese on Religious Education, but the structure of the classes can be set up differently determined by each parish. Thinking of ways to bring parents to church as their children attend Religious Education class may be helpful in educating the parents of the importance of attending Mass and RE class. An attempt was made to get a high school youth group started but there was very little interest. Lisa would like to get a middle school group started in hopes that getting the younger children active at church earlier will make a bigger impact.

Approval of Agenda:

Chris Audino moved to approve the agenda. Scott Birenbaum seconded it.

Approval of Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2023

Fr. Schmeckel moved to approve the minutes. Deb Hasler seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

Approval of Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2023

Fr. Schmeckel moved to approve the minutes. Deb Hasler seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

Committee Reports

***Please read the submitted summaries before attending the meeting.

Questions/clarifications will be discussed at the meeting ***

Old Business:

- Pastoral Council Retreat – February 16, 2024
The retreat will be at St. Matthias Chapel in Auburn. It will start at 5:15 PM with a Mass followed by a simple meal and discussion of goals.
- Life Fair Request
Deb followed up with Mary Jo Widder regarding a few questions about the program. We will discuss the fair request at the next joint meeting.

- Social Welcome for Seminarian
The date(s) of the social is still being determined. Plans will be made and shared once everything is finalized.

New Business:

- Advent & Christmas Season Recap
Overall, we felt that the Advent and Christmas season went well. The Advent books were distributed and it is hoped that parishioners felt they were beneficial. Some people mentioned that their book was missing some pages but other than that no feedback was heard. All agreed that the decorations in church were wonderful. There were many donations given for purchasing flowers and it was felt that those beautified the altar area.
- Lenten Season – Lent in a Bag – Kelly Jens
Bags will be distributed to parishioners filled with weekly prayers, scripture readings and small items. They are similar to what has been done in the past. They will be handed out after the Ash Wednesday Masses as well as after the following weekend Masses. An announcement will be made during the Ash Wednesday Masses to let parishioners know that the bags are available for them to take home.
- Stewardship Gathering – Kelly Jens
There is a Stewardship Conference in West Bend on February 1 from 6:30-8:00 PM. The conference is designed for councils and could offer beneficial information. Deb will be attending.
- Construction Updates – Tim Woodworth
 - CLC bathroom project - The project is done. The final cost ended up under the estimated cost. Mike Matoska was great at managing the project. Mike White, Tim Woodworth, Gene Specht, and Tenpas Drywall offered their time and/or resources to help get the project completed.
 - Elevator project - Mike Koenig Construction will be working on the project. The elevator has been ordered. The state needs to approve the details of the project. Some preparations have started for cleaning out areas necessary for space to work on the project. The work will begin around the end of February.
 - Air handling unit controls - Haucke Plumbing will be doing the work for this project. Currently there are very old systems for both levels of the church building. These systems will be changed to electronic controls. Furnace controls will also be done at the same time. This work has been started.
 - Other projects have been discussed. The Stations of the Cross from both St. George Church and St. Rose Church will be hung. This is a great way to celebrate the patrimony of our parish history.
- Thoughts from Parishioners – Tim Woodworth
 - Faith Formation papers - There was a question from a parishioner wondering if papers are sent home from the Religious Education program. It was determined that they are available and are sent home with the students.
 - Teaching Masses - A parishioner wondered if Fr. Schmeckel would be interested in celebrating a Teaching Mass. During this Mass, information would be presented to educate parishioners on the parts and traditions of the Mass.

Administrator's Report – Fr. Schmeckel

- A statue of St. Rose was found that will better match the St. George statue. It was decided that the statue will be purchased.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Discernment information for the upcoming council and trustee openings will be discussed.

Prayer Intentions and Closing Prayer – Fr. Schmeckel

Adjournment: 7:35 PM

Lent in a Bag Assembly and Christmas Social

- Important Dates:
 - January 28 – St. John's Winterfest
 - February 14 – Ash Wednesday
 - February 17 – Knights of Columbus Soup Social
 - February 28 – Joint Council Meal/Meeting at Saint John Evangelist
 - March 16 – Blessed Trinity Trivia Night
 - March 21 – Pastoral Council Meeting
 - Meet & Greet Schedule: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DA4A72BA3F94-meet>