

Parish Pastoral Council meeting notes March 31, 2022

Attendees: Father Joe Molloy, Sister Judy Pfile, Gavin Davis, Rachel Green, Pat Kornfeld, Rick Kirchengesner, Ben Kwedar, Amy Schneider, Debbie Shawgo

Note taker: Rachel Green

The meeting opened with Gavin leading the opening prayer. The February meeting notes were approved.

Rick discussed needing a volunteer for the Co-chair and note taker positions before the April meeting. Please consider volunteering for either of these positions and contact Rick with any questions. A signup sheet was passed out for volunteers to lead the opening prayer before each meeting. We will say the "Make a Difference" prayer at the end of each meeting.

Ben volunteered to set up a Google docs folder so all parish council documentation can be stored in a central location and easily accessed by future council members.

Ideas to increase the visibility of the pastoral council included updating our council web page to include a St Joseph email account for parish council which Rick Kirchengesner and future council Chairs would monitor. We would add an area on the site that says meet your parish council and include a picture or a link to a picture next to each of our names so the Parish can get to know us. If this is successful we will reach out to the Finance and Preschool councils and ask them to do the same thing.

The church office maintains our church website. We discussed the possibility of rebuilding the web site. A homework assignment was given to look at any denomination church websites and seek ideas for discussion for next meeting. We will use a portion of the meeting to display various websites and ideas on the conference room TV. Amy Schneider suggested getting parish high school students involved in proposing design ideas or suggesting other areas of social media that youth would be more likely to use.

Sister Judy will inquire about the cost of name tag options and report back. Sister Judy also mentioned the parish has purchased an Easter white book that will be distributed on Palm Sunday. It was suggested that the youth group volunteer to hand out the books after mass. Amy suggested giving a copy to the kids at faith formation so they would have their own. Sister Judy said she will reach out to Dawn Roesch.

We did not have time to discuss the signup sheet for liaisons for the ministry committees. This agenda item will be added to the April agenda.

Gavin is excited about Dawn Roesch being the new youth coordinator and is excited about the youth ministry events coming up. Amy's son Van has expressed the same. Kudos to Father for making all people feel welcome.

Father Joe updates:

Father Joe gave an update on the Dioceses synod event that was held at SJW in March. About 65 people attended. Participants were divided into three groups and their ideas were shared by each group lead. People were talkative and shared their ideas. The diocese will submit a synopsis of the ideas that were gathered, and Father Joe will share that with us.

Father Joe gave an update on the roof repairs. Henson Robinson will finish after the rain stops, hopefully by May. Final payment will be made after the work is finished and approved by Father. Some ceiling tiles need to be replaced and the preschool doors need some repair. Amy proposed bringing older and younger parishioners together over the summer to work on repairs together.

There is a need to improve the church Landscaping. It is the first impression people see when they visit our church. In a couple of years, the church roof and issues with drainage will need to be fixed. Both items are expensive and will probably require a financial campaign to raise money for the repairs.

Father has his ministries covered for Holy Week.

Group Discussion:

Topic 1: How do we help lapsed or inactive Catholics back home to church?

The group inquired if there are any data sources we can use to identify inactive members. Father encourages anyone with past hurts, concerns, questions etc. that are preventing them from returning to SJW to reach out to him directly. Father is going to write an Easter "invitation" message to the parish welcoming back people who stopped coming because of Covid. Father and Sister both said word of mouth and a personal invitation are powerful. A personal invite could include an offer to attend a mass with someone who is struggling at whatever service is the best time for them. A phone call just checking on someone who you miss seeing at mass and letting them know you miss them being there might make a difference.

Everyone agreed that Father publicly congratulating athletes and any personal accomplishments by the youth was very well received. Father stated that he would like to stop by and visit games that SJW athletes were in. Gavin suggested attending the Meet the Titans event held in the fall which would allow father to cover multiple sports at one time. Gavin also said GMSTitans.org lists all high school events. Debbie said she might be able to find out how much it would cost to advertise on the sports app. Amy suggested a Blessings of the Backpacks before school or a blessing of the uniforms at the beginning of sports season.

Topic 2 - Parish Mission

Parish Missions are usually two to three nights long and center around a religious topic. Sometimes they include mass. Parish missions are expensive and can take a couple of years to schedule. Ideas to decrease costs included possibly combining with another church such as Little Flower or asking for a small donation to attend or take up a collection during the event. Father Joe suggested Fr Albert Haase and John Kennedy has mentioned a duo team to Sister Judy in the past. Amy suggested that we focus on one topic at a time, so we remain focused as a team. Perhaps someone can volunteer to do research and present the idea again at a later point when more information is available. Because cost is involved, we will need to reach out to the parish Finance council once we decide to proceed.