

St. Catherine of Alexandria
8661 North 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223

St. Catherine of Alexandria, the church on the hill since 1855, joins together as a Catholic community to give praise and thanks to God by living and sharing our faith in Jesus Christ through our worship, formation and outreach.

With our cluster parishes, we strive to make Christ visible to our wider community.



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2018

Attendees: Council members Debra Hintz, Pat Lehman, Sue Niemi, Sue Armacost, Les Paulson, Ralph Boeckl, Marie Brushafer, Barb Holt, Jeanette McMurdo, and Sue Wassenberg. Absent were Rick Korpela and Lyn Keever (excused). No other persons were present.

Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. Sue Armacost led an opening prayer.

Approval of the November 21, 2017 Minutes

Debbie suggested including more information from committee reports in the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sue Armacost, seconded by Jeanette McMurdo and approved.

Committee Reports (questions/clarifications)

Sue Armacost, reporting for the Prayer and Worship Committee, noted that mass attendance counts were down 90 from the previous year, not 300. Her report mentioned that the All Souls liturgy and breakfast again went very well, the November 8 presentation on the Gospel of Mark was poorly attended (perhaps other such programs should be held following the Sunday mass), and everything is in place for Thanksgiving and Advent liturgies.

Ralph Boeckl, reporting for the Human Concerns Committee, noted that Carl and Clarice Geenen, co-chairpersons of the committee, did a good job of directing the meeting, Lenten almsgiving has been designated for Casa Maria Catholic Worker House, the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking, the Sojourner Family Peace Center, and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference, and preparations have been made for the Winter Farmers' Market.

The Tri-Parish Christian Formation Committee reported that grade school students had made 120 ornaments for the Giving Tree at St. Catherine, first reconciliation for 7 year olds was held in October 2017 and first communion will be celebrated at St. Catherine on the weekend of April 21 and 22. The committee also reported that a high school/confirmation retreat had been planned at Holy Hill for January 2018 and confirmation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 5 at Our Lady of Good Hope with Bishop Schuerman presiding.

Becoming the Inviting Church

Why have folks become content with once a month mass attendance? Other weekend activities, changed attitudes, and not adjusting (after almost half a century!) to the current practice of liturgy all play a part. Technology, somewhat oddly, separates us and leaves people lonely.

Personal invitation is powerful, but often we do not know who the inactives are or whom to contact, and some are not comfortable with such contacts.

How do we become more inviting and more inclusive? It is important to have a good liturgy, with capable people as cantors, lectors, ems, ushers, etc. Could we, looking for diversity, attract more such people? Music and leadership are important. Lay preaching, currently not allowed, might be advantageous. Let the gifts of people be recognized and put to use.

The next parish council meetings will be February 27 and March 20.

Pastoral Council Elections

Jeanette McMurdo will not be running again.

Ralph Boeckl, Sue Armacost, and Les Paulson are the current nominating committee.

Parish Director's Report

Debbie wondered what was different while she was gone. It was mentioned that the website was not always up to date and that there is a sense that it seems important to have someone in charge.

The Lenten tri-parish read will be done again this year.

A financial update will be done.

What are you hearing?

Jeanette MacMurdo reported that someone had urged that no more special appeals for projects be held.

Closing Prayer

All joined in reciting together the Prayer for the Mission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Les Paulson, Secretary