

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2019

ATTENDANCE: John Boroski, Sarah Campagna, Ben Cutter, Rich DiMarco, Kim Fluet, Sue Gangemi, Mike Goonan, Karl Hamann, Megan Harold, Noah Lucia, Sue Reed, Ann Smith, Mary Beth Sullivan, Anne Gallagher, Karen Rinefierd, Everett and Jane Sherett, Margie Benza, Michael Bausch and Martha Jodoin.

1. Following Advent Evening Prayer Mike Goonan called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Anne Gallagher presented an NCYC video of journal reflections.
2. Introductions were made.
3. The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as written.
4. Mike Goonan attended a Parish Lay Trustee Seminar about the diocesan bankruptcy. Victims have until August 2020 to come forward. The diocese, not the parish, is the debtor. They also covered financial crisis in parishes as there is a decrease in attendance, sacraments and contributions. We are already doing all the things they recommend to counter this.
5. Karen Rinefierd distributed a report of statistics on the diocese and our parish. Some parishes in the diocese have clustered amid declining attendance and declining number of active priests. While clustering is not seen as a reality for our parish in the near future it is good to have close relationships with St. Louis and St. Catherine's, shared Lenten retreat is an example of our working together.
6. No Long Term Planning reports were given.
7. A parishioner has commented that the parish web site and another parish has the Nov. 24 bulletin and has not been updated. Several council members have also noticed this.
8. Fr. Mike reported that finances of the parishes, Catholic Family Center and Stella Maris are kept separate from the Diocese and the Diocesan bankruptcy does not impact these groups. Security cameras have been installed. We are at 57% of our CMA goal. Reminder letters have been sent.
9. Our pastoral council is supportive of having a meeting with the pastoral councils of St. Louis and St. Catherine's. Fr. Mike will follow up on this possible meeting.
10. Due to the lateness and that Anne had done an update during opening prayer on NCYC she had no further comments at this time.
11. FAITH FORMATION – FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – Bridges of Faith has started for the year, still currently adding some families. We will also have a group of "catch up" second grade families that will be working in December and January to complete some items still outstanding prior to starting First Communion preparation. CGS has started, currently there are three students in the program with a possible 3-5 more that have expressed interest. This program is open to all students 3-6 years old, and children can join the program at any time during the year. If there is enough interest there is a possibility of adding a summer program. FAITH, FAMILY, FUN – This year we continued the trunk or treat event of the past with the Halloween party social events put together. Next year we are brainstorming a possible Day of the Dead celebration, revamping the model a little bit. Our next events are St. Nick Shoes (December 7 and 8 after all masses) and Gingerbread House Making which will take place during the Festival of Gifts and Talents. SACRAMENTS - Reconciliation is going well, we have some new families that are joining up in this preparation. We have 13-15 who will be receiving in December. The number is flexible due to a few possible additional students who might start preparation later. Confirmation is going well; our celebration date will be May 6. YOUTH MINISTRY – The transition of the middle school ministry into the monthly model has gone well! Attendance is up significantly from last year and the kids are having fun creating community while learning about the faith. Senior high youth group is also going great – we have several 9th grade Confirmation candidates who are choosing to attend weekly instead of just the 4 times required for Confirmation prep. CYO is off and running – 12 teams this year and about 175 players and coaches involved. The National Catholic Youth Conference was Nov. 20-24. Twenty-six Transfiguration teens and adults attended, and they went DEEP into their faith! Some reflections from teens who attended show how meaningful and formative this pilgrimage can be in the life of a teen: "GOD IS GOOD! We had Adoration tonight, and I have never felt closer to God. It was a full body experience and I was sobbing in the best way possible. I could feel my heart in my chest and I felt God LOOKING at me. It really hit me that the way I look at God is the same way He looks at me because I was looking at Him with such awe, wonder, and amazement." "I have always had an issue with feeling loved and opening my heart to let others love me. This weekend was truly life-changing. God was present. I was present. And the Holy Spirit was present. There are so many people on this trip who have impacted me." Noah reported that he played drums to accompany some of the singers and musicians at the Festival of Gifts and Talents. He will also be playing at mass on Christmas Eve. ADULT FAITH FORMATION – About 40 parishioners and their guests participated viewing The Chosen series this fall – it was very well received and led to great discussion! We are hoping to show the next four episodes this spring. Joe Kelly's series on Models of Church had 30 people attend. Women in the Spirit had a wonderful evening with 50 women making Christmas Wreaths together and encouraging each other in the Spirit of the season. Many thanks to Rose Volker who is the creator and facilitator of this event. Ignatian Retreat Day Feb. 29 with Fr. John Predmore, SJ will be an experience incorporating art and contemplative prayer. PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT –The Peace and

Justice Committee is currently engaged in a comprehensive discernment process led by Damian Zynda. Using Ignatian-based processes, we are reflecting on the future role of the committee, as well as the role and engagement of committee members. Diocesan Public Policy Committee Agenda for 2020: Advocacy Issue – physician assisted suicide, Opioid Addiction Crisis; New York State funding (\$200 million) for energy efficiency and critical capital needs for religious and independent schools. Turkey Drive: 182 frozen turkeys and 35 roasted turkeys were delivered to six agencies. Our thanks to Denise Nunziato and Kathy Kyhos, coordinators, and to teens and volunteers who helped. Christmas Basket Program – 185 families to date. Assistance appreciated on Dec. 18 (Pre-Assembly), Dec. 19 (wrapping) and Dec. 20 (Delivery). Contact Margie or sign up on the bookcase shelf in the Gathering Area. Sharing Tree in the gathering area: Agencies represented are Kentucky, Jordan Health Center, Matthew's Closet. Sr. Julia and Christmas Basket Program (toys). Our thanks to Sam Crawshaw who coordinates this effort. LITURGY- Addition of chairs, rug and beautiful bookcases have been received very well with many positive comments and the space being utilized at every Mass. Our Liturgy Committee has offered the Advent theme of "Hope" which will be weaved throughout the season in homilies, Advent reflection materials, the altar banner and other resources. Mass Coordinators gathered Nov. 8 to discuss several aspects of coordinating masses which brings our prayer to seamless worship. Rick and Sam Crawshaw have stepped down after 25 faithful years of serving. We welcomed back Jim and Suzanne Ashmore who have returned to Rochester. All shared their personal gift of the ministry which always came back to the warm, and caring hospitality of the Transfiguration family. Thanksgiving Mass was Nov. 28 and presided by Fr. Ed Palumbos with 75 in attendance and offered the yearly breads blessing. Advent Candlelight Evening Prayer will be Dec. 2, 9, and 16 at 7pm. Christmas Masses Dec. 24 at 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm and midnight (music begins at 11:30p.m). Christmas Day mass at 10 a.m. PASTORAL: The two part Funeral Pre-Planning Series (Funeral Home and Cemetery Planning and Planning your Funeral Liturgy) in November was well attended with 28-35 participants at each session. Our Grief Share program is well underway with ten participants and concludes Dec. 11 with a luncheon and prayer service. Our thanks to Ev and Jane Charette who warmly and pastorally guided the group through these difficult weeks. The next session is scheduled for April 2020. An additional Grief Share program, "Surviving the Holidays in the Midst of Grief" was offered Nov. 14 and facilitated by Ev and Jane Charette. Five were in attendance. Our Social Events Committee sponsored our Halloween Fest this year on Oct. 19. Swan's Market offered our buffet and there was a DJ and some people in costumes in attendance. One hundred parishioners and friends enjoyed the evening. Planning is underway for the Irish Fish Fry Fest on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Our first Festival of Gifts and Talents took place Dec. 7. Twenty-five parishioners shared their gifts and talents with the option to offer them for sale. Music talent was generous with over 23 musical and dance acts in addition to strolling carolers, a photo studio provided by Joey Campagna, Gingerbread House making and a "Hot Dog Lunch". Many were in attendance with a discussion of a future yearly event. Thanks to the committee of Lorey Beck, Sue Gangemi, Denise Nunziato, Roxanne DiLaura, Janet Bleecker and Nancy Wahl in addition to volunteers Rick Wahl, Marcy Bold, Gael Garrity and the teens who worked with Sue Wallace and Margie Benza to offer this opportunity for our parish family to appreciate the gifts and talents of many. This originated from our Long Term Pastoral Planning Committee. Our second workshop for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's Dementia took place Oct. 19 with 14 in attendance. Our first monthly Alzheimer's-Dementia Support Group meeting took place in October with six in attendance and met again in November at the home of coordinators Jim and Bernadette. Contact Margie with interest and contact information. After 14 years of committed coordination, Joy Morris will be stepping down as the "Welcome Bread/Reception" coordinator. Shelly Stotz has kindly offered to step into this role and coordinated our December Welcome Reception which welcomed the Dan Wojick family. Other invited new parishioners hope to attend the March 1, 2020 reception. Other activities : Other active ministry work includes: Bereavement, Cloverwood, First Friday, Highland's, Make-A-Meal, Respite Care, funeral planning, parish planning committee, pastoral care and visitation, spiritual direction, wedding coordination and Peace and Justice ministries. Respectfully submitted by Margie Benza.

12. The next meeting of parish pastoral council will be moved to January 6, 2020. Fr. Mike led us in closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. and the pastoral council went into executive session.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Jodoin