

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Minutes for Meeting that took place on Thursday, November 5, 2020**

**Elected Members in Attendance:** Denise Blum, Donna Bodkin, Kelly Hartwig, Bill Keuper, Margie King, Sharon Lech

**Elected Members Not Present:** Kevin Sims, Ed Cefalu

**Ex Officio Members in Attendance:** Fr. Gardner, Jenni Petrey

**Ex Officio Not Present:** Wilma McGlasson **Recording Secretary:** Janice Stentz

**Opening Prayer**

**October minutes:** Approved

**Fr. Gardner's Report**

**In the Parish**

- With ongoing concerns for the pandemic, we continue to observe the practices and guidelines for safe gatherings.
- The celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of St. Margaret Mary as a parish in the Archdiocese took place on Sun., Oct. 11 at the Sunday 11 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Schnurr. About 86 persons were present for the liturgy. Although many of the planned activities for this celebration have been cancelled or postponed, the parish was able to provide celebratory cookies for those who attended the Mass as well as to provide the same to those who attended the Sat. 4:30 p.m. Mass that weekend. Fr. Jerry expressed his thanks for everyone who helped with this day and the planning of the past year. It is hoped that in 2021 we can reschedule some of the activities and at a minimum have the annual parish gathering with dinner in October that will fall on the feast of Saint Margaret Mary next year.
- Remaining special collections taking place in the coming weeks are: Catholic Relief Services on Nov. 7/8 (moved from Covid-19 suspension time in April); Catholic Campaign for Human Development on Nov. 21/22; Religious Retirement Fund on Dec. 12/13. There will be a 5th Sunday collection for our local SVDP on Nov 28/29.
- The SVDP sponsored Christmas Giving Tree program has begun. They are not doing individual gift tags this year due to Covid but instead are asking that a monetary gift be offered so that gift cards can be purchased for families they will be assisting this year. Donations can be made using Online Giving through the parish website or dropped off at Mass or in the parish office.
- Fr. Jerry has not made a final decision on the schedule for Christmas liturgy for the pastoral region. He is leaning toward keeping two Masses for St. Margaret Mary on the Eve at 4:30 p.m. and the day at 10 a.m., with three Masses scheduled at Assumption possibly at 3 p.m. and another afternoon Mass (5 or 6 p.m.) and during Christmas day at 10 a.m. He is considering dropping the Mass During the Night that in the past was scheduled at 11 p.m. since it is primarily supported by the choir community who are not able to sing with the pandemic restrictions.

**In the Archdiocese**

The Archdiocesan wide planning for "Our Mission, Our Future" first announced at the 2019 Priest Convocation, has now evolved into more specific planning within deaneries led by each deanery's current dean on behalf of the Archbishop. Fr. Kyle Schnippel is the current dean for the St. MM Deanery. In addition to the already hired Director for Pastoral Planning, Mr. Rob Bock, two other agencies have been contracted to facilitate the gathering and evaluate data on the current information of the Archdiocese. During the week of Nov. 9 there are three Zoom meetings scheduled for the various deaneries from 1-6 p.m. The pastors have already received the request for data collection on such areas as finance, households, sacraments, schools and students for this planning with a due date to return it by Nov. 23, 2020.

**In the Pastoral Region**

Assumption Parish is having their Christmas 50/50 split-the-pot raffle on Dec. 6. Presently the winning amount is at about \$7000.00 and growing, while St. Margaret Mary continues its raffle for the big screen TV to be drawn on Nov. 30 at noon.

**O.L.G. School**

- Fr. Jerry presided at the Oct. 20 school liturgy. He is next scheduled for Tues., Nov. 17. The Mass is not open to the public.
- The school year is continuing with only a few students getting Covid and the school responding as required.

**Faith Formation Director's Report** – provided by Wilma

**Dynamic Catholic Book Club:** The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in Room 21. They are finishing the current book, *The Time is Now, A Call to Uncommon Courage* by Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB and will begin their new book next month which is going to be *POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL, FRATELLI TUTTI: Fraternity and Social Friendship*.

**C.L.O.W.:** The very dedicated group of leaders of this program are communicating with the youngsters of this program via mail and phone calls and making sure they receive a copy of the weekly booklet and other seasonal information until everyone can meet again.

**Sacrament Preparation:** To date there has been only one response back from the families for First Communion and First Reconciliation. Wilma will send a mailing to these families to get the lessons planned. There are no plans for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation this coming year.

**P.R.E.P. (Parish Religious Education Program):** The lessons for children in the public schools are being offered as a home school model. Lessons and materials are provided. A parent or other adult will work with the student at home and meet at the Parish Center with the DRE every 4 to 6 weeks or more as needed. There is one student in the program at this time. A letter will be mailed to parishioners who have children in grades 1–8. We welcome high school students to call the DRE for a religious education program as well.

**Adult Faith Formation:** *The Little Blue Book* for Advent and Christmas has arrived and is now available in the Parish Office and Holy Family Room.

**ZOOM and other forms of communication:** Much of the information is sent in forms to which many people do not have access. Please contact the Faith Formation Office by email or phone, leave a message and someone will get back to you. The information materials can be mailed to you as well. Most communications from the Faith Formation Office are handled by email, [wmcglasson@fuse.net](mailto:wmcglasson@fuse.net), US mail or personal phone call.

**Contacting the DRE:** During these times of the pandemic, Wilma is more successful working from home, especially while communication and programs she needs are provided via ZOOM and other forms of internet communication. Wilma works in her office at St. MM on a limited basis and can meet with parishioners as needed. If you wish to contact her, email her at [wmcglasson@fuse.net](mailto:wmcglasson@fuse.net) or call the Parish Office, 521-7387 and Maureen will give Wilma your message.

**Communications Commission (CC):** Janice reported

- Photos taken during the 100th Anniversary Mass will be sent to the Catholic Telegraph.
- Producing the parish newsletter continues to be suspended until the printer starts printing again.

**Finance:** Jenni reported

- The parish financial report thru October 31 was presented to Council. Weekly collections continue to be down, currently by about \$6,000.00 due to Covid-19 with fewer people attending Mass in person. It is hoped that the proceeds from the parish's large screen TV raffle will help to offset the deficit.
- Currently planning for a Mega Split-the-Pot in January/February in lieu of not being able to have the Casino Night this year. More information will be coming as plans firm up.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Jenni reported

- Painting of the exterior facades, etc. of the church, rectory and garage is continuing depending on the weather.
- The Festival room will be cleaned out over the winter months.

**St. MM Parish Service Organization:** Denise reported

All activity continues to be on hold due to Covid-19

**Parish Bingo program:** Denise reported

Continues to be on hold with no plans to restart in the near future.

**Ongoing Business – 55” LED Smart TV Raffle**

Tickets were mailed to parish households. They can be purchased/returned up to 10 a.m. on Mon., Nov. 30 which is the day when the drawing will take place. It was suggested that the drawing take place on Facebook Live. Jenni will look into the possibility of doing it that way.

**Old Business – Parish 100th Anniversary Commemorative Ornament**

- An ornament representing the parish was designed and produced and sent to the Archdiocese for the Cathedral Christmas tree.
- The same ornament design is being offered for sale as a memento of the 100th Anniversary. Fliers have been in the bulletin and information is on the parish website, weekly emails, parish Facebook page and Twitter. To get the ornament by Christmas, orders need to be placed with the parish office by Wed., Nov. 18. The ornaments will continue to be available after Christmas and likely through next year as we hope to reschedule the planned 100th anniversary events.

**Closing Prayer**

**Next PC meeting:** Thur., Jan. 7 2021. NOTE: There is no PC meeting in December.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz