

St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes for Meeting that took place on Thursday, January 7, 2021

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

Elected Members Not Present: Ed Cefalu

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

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

Opening Prayer

January 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 at our liturgies and with the decisions for the use of our facilities.
- Since the last PC meeting there was one funeral liturgy for Janet Martini. Richard Schuster also passed away but his family will hold a service at a later time.
- Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 17. Based on instructions from the Vatican received on Jan. 12, the manner for the distribution of ashes has been limited to the sprinkling of ashes over each person who chooses to come forward. At present Fr. Jerry is scheduling only one Mass at each parish for the pastoral region; at St. Margaret Mary at 8 a.m. and at Assumption at 9:15 a.m. He will also celebrate the Mass for the OLG community at 10:30 a.m.
- During this year's Lenten season Fr. Jerry is scheduling only morning Masses at both parishes. Praying of the Stations of the Cross will take place each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. through weeks 1-5 of Lent taking place at St. Margaret Mary. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at Assumption Church on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.
- Fr. Jerry called attention to Pope Francis' announcement of the beginning of a "Year of St. Joseph" on Dec. 8, 2020, lasting through this year until Dec. 8, 2021. It is encouraged to honor this when celebrating feasts of St. Joseph. Also, there have been three parish churches designated as pilgrimage sites during this year—locally St. Joseph in North Bend, OH—with the plenary indulgence granted when following the precepts for this.
- The 2020 Christmas Tree at the Cathedral was decorated with the parish's new ornament in recognition of our 100th anniversary, as well as the ornament submitted by the parish in the 1990s, most likely on the occasion of the parish's 75th anniversary.
- The Archbishop's present dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will continue for the present time. A date has not been given for ending this dispensation at the present time.

In the Archdiocese

- CMA 2021 began throughout the Archdiocese with the delivery of the Archbishop's message at the Masses on Jan. 24. The CMA mailing has gone to households, with Commitment Sunday to take place on Feb. 7. The parish's goal for the 2021 appeal is \$12,646.00. Fifty percent of any overage toward this goal will be designated for our parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference.
- The Archdiocese's Beacons of Light pastoral planning process is in the gathering and evaluating stage as information gathered in the fall of 2020 is being reviewed. The current schedule for the beginning of presentation is in spring 2021.

In the Pastoral Region

The Holy Week and Easter schedule has been set. Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil liturgies will take place at Assumption Church. The plan is for the Good Friday liturgy to be held at both churches only in the afternoon if Fr. Dale is able to assist with this.

O.L.G. School

- Fr. Jerry presided at the Jan. 26 school liturgy and is next scheduled on Tues., Feb. 17 for the Ash Wednesday Mass.
- The teachers and staff at OLG are scheduled to be able to receive the Covid-19 vaccine during the week of Feb. 8.

Faith Formation Director's Report – provided by Wilma

Sacrament Preparation: Of the three children preparing for First Reconciliation, one has completed the studies and celebrated the Sacrament. Another has completed the studies and made a date and time with Fr. Jerry to the celebrate this Sacrament. The third family has completed the studies and has been asked to contact Fr. Jerry for a date and time for First Reconciliation. Three children will begin preparation for First Communion by late February or early March.

P.R.E.P. (Parish Religious Education Program): There is one student in the PREP program. They are on the home study plan.

C.L.O.W.: The Children's Liturgy of the Word is supported by the teachers of this program. They are faithfully providing the weekly lessons to the families for home study. They will have St. Joseph, Lent and Easter materials to offer as well. We look forward to the time when the children can gather during the readings at Mass time.

ZOOM and other forms of communication: With meetings being difficult to attend during the virus situation, most of Wilma's communication with the Archdiocese, parishes and other organizations are being conducted by email, phone or Zoom.

Adult Faith Formation: The Dynamic Catholic Book Club group is not meeting in person but they continue reading a designated book at home. It is hoped to be able to gather monthly again when it is safe. They have completed the book *The Time is Now* regarding peace, justice, freedom and empowerment by Sr. Joan Chittister and are currently reading *Fratelli TUTTI On Fraternity and Social Friendship* by Pope Francis.

Little Black Books are available for Lent and the Little White Books will be available for Easter.

Easter Dinner in a Decorated Bag: The parish can support Valley Inter-Faith Food Center as we have in the past. Grocery bags will be decorated by the parish children and can be taken home to fill with items on a list that comes with the bag starting on the weekend of Feb. 20/21. The bags will be available in the Holy Family Room. Bring the bag with the food back to the parish by the weekend of March 21 and the bags will be delivered to Valley Inter-Faith for distribution to those in need.

Watch the bulletin and other communications for more information about Lent and Easter activities.

Other Celebrations: The Faith Formation Team is currently planning some things for the Year of St. Joseph, which will be in the bulletin and other communications.

Communications Commission (CC): Janice reported

There has been no meeting or other activity related to Communications since the last PC meeting. Information and accompanying videos about the CMA have been added to the parish website.

Finance: Jenni reported

The parish financial report thru Jan. 31 was presented to Council. The overall budget is slightly less than the budgeted for amount but in general things are doing okay.

Buildings & Grounds: Jenni reported

There are currently no projects taking place.

St. MM Parish Service Organization: Denise reported

- All activity continues to be on hold due to Covid-19
- Scholarship applications will be sent to eligible 8th grade students at the beginning of March.

Parish Bingo program: Denise reported

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

Ongoing business – Mega Split-the-Pot raffle

Jenni announced that the initial goal amount of \$7,500.00 has been exceeded. She will be adjusting the goal amount to 10K and believes it is possible to reach this goal based on the most recent returns. She explained that a QR code is being utilized to help make it easy to access the raffle information on the parish's website donation page where the purchaser is then directed to the parish's Online Giving site. Online sales end on Feb. 10. The plan is to start the raffle sales before Christmas next year. The drawing will be on Sat., Feb. 13.

Ongoing business – Parish Council Nominations & Elections

Donna Bodkin and Sharon Lech volunteered to oversee the nominations and election process to take place over the coming months. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the normal process of placing forms in the pews can't be done. It was decided that a flyer with a ballot would be placed in the bulletins instead.

New business – How to get back to normal

Fr. Jerry shared that the priests of the deanery have been discussing their concerns for how to get back to normal once the dispensation from attending Mass is lifted by the Archbishop. How do we re-engage with and encourage those who haven't been to Mass in the past year? How do we welcome them back? Father suggested that the planned 101 Anniversary celebrations could be a good vehicle for connecting people again, possibly by starting to promote the October event over the summer. It was also suggested that it was a good time to conduct another phone calling campaign with the goal being to identify those who have been homebound during the pandemic, or simply staying away from Mass to be able to reach out to them directly. It is hard to know who has and has not been coming to Mass because things have been scattered. Other ways to reach out, encourage and reassure people about coming back will be considered.

Closing Prayer

Next PC meeting: Thur., Mar. 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz