

St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes for Meeting that took place on Thursday, September 2, 2021

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

Elected Members Not Present: Kevin Sims, Ed Cefalu, Bill Keuper

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

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

August minutes: Approved with changes

Fr. Gardner's Report

In the Parish

- The guidance for Covid-19 and its variants continues to be to encourage the wearing of facial masks when inside, but this is not mandated at the present time. The parish will continue to provide face masks and hand sanitizer for the foreseeable future.

- A second collection was taken on the weekend of Aug. 21/22 for the Emergency Response Fund for the people and Church of Haiti suffering from the recent earthquake. A second collection was also taken on the weekend of Aug. 29, the fifth Sunday in August, for the St. MM Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. There will be two extra collections taken in October; on the weekend of Oct. 2/3 for the Respect Life Fund of the Archdiocese; and on World Mission Sunday, the weekend of Oct. 23/24, for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

- The annual Remembrance/Bereavement Mass is planned to take place on the weekend of Oct. 30/31.

- The 2021 Sizzlin' Summer Mega Split-the-Pot Raffle concluded on Aug. 29 with the drawing of the winning prize at the summer picnic gathering. Amy Bepler was the prize winner. The Basket Raffle drawings also took place at this gathering. Fr. Jerry expressed his thanks to all those involved in the preparation, planning and administration of these fundraisers, as well as those who were able to help with setup and cleanup for the summer picnic.

In the Archdiocese

- The Archdiocesan-wide pastoral planning initiative, Beacons of Light continues. We draw nearer to the time period for review and comment on the proposed Families of Parishes. On Sept. 29 the majority of the priests of the Archdiocese will receive the information and on Sept. 30 the principals of schools of the Archdiocese will be informed. The public will be informed on Oct. 1 and there will be a period for the public to comment from Oct. 1-20 as they review the proposed listings of the Families of Parishes. The Beacons of Light website will have a portal where comments can be submitted.

- A copy of an informational postcard about the Beacons of Light pastoral planning was presented to PC members. They will be mailed to registered parish households on Fri., Sept. 3 by bulk mail to be received the following week. There have also been a number of articles about Beacons of Light in the past two months in the Catholic Telegraph.

- The St. MM Deanery has a planned meeting for parish staffs and those on parish leadership bodies to take place at St. Ignatius on Mon., Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. Fr. Jerry would like a couple of PC members to attend with him.

In the Pastoral Region

Assumption Parish is holding their late summer picnic on Sept. 19 at Winton Woods at the Daly Shelter. St. MM parishioners are welcome to join in this gathering. The details will be in the Sept. 12 bulletin.

O.L.G. School

- Based on norms set by the health department, the school's administration enacted the rule for universal masking for everyone in the building on Sept. 1 until further notice. This was necessary as some students tested positive for infection which enacting the policy for quarantine for others in immediate contact with them. Universal masking allows the school community to avoid the increased number of students placed in quarantine and the possible closure of the school.

- The Aug. 15 PTO Ice Cream Social and other activities for school families that took place on Aug. 19 were successful. There were 410 students enrolled on the first day. This number may change as registration information is received and processed in a timely manner.

- The blessing of students at the start of a new school year took place at the Masses at St. MM on Aug. 15.

- Fr. Jerry is scheduled to preside at the Wed., Sept. 8 school liturgy and again on Tues., Sept. 28. First liturgy with whole school then for the following weeks alternating the upper and lower grades to be present at Mass.

Faith Formation Director's Report – no report was provided this month

NOTE: *Unless otherwise stated, questions or requests for additional information for any of the Faith Formation activities mentioned below should be directed to the parish Faith Formation Director, Wilma McGlasson at wmcglasson@fuse.net or the parish office, 521-7387.*

It was noted that registration forms for PREP are now available in the church vestibule and will also be mailed to families that are identified via the parish registry. The program will start in September.

Communications Commission (CC): Janice reported
There have been no meetings. Nothing to report

Finance: Jenni provided report

- The parish monthly finance report ending on Aug. 31 was presented to council.
- There are eight parish students at OLG for this school year.
- The 2021-22 parish budget will be in the bulletin the weekend of Sept 18/19.
- There is a parish finance meeting scheduled on Sept. 16.

Buildings & Grounds: Jenni reported

Work is continuing to repair some plumbing issues in the PAC and rectory.

Parish Bingo program: Denise reported

Preparations are in place for Bingo to resume on Fri., Sept 3. Jenni acknowledge Denise Blum and Bill Johansing's hard work to get the program back up and running, including getting the facilities ready. Denise asked for prayers for workers and patrons, that all goes well and everything works as expected with the new routines and changes required of volunteers and patrons.

Old business – Sizzlin' Summer Mega Split-the-Pot and Parking Lot Picnic

The raffle drawing and parking lot picnic took place on Aug. 29 with a nice gathering of parishioners who attended. Amy Bepler won the Mega split-the-pot prize of \$4,425.00. The basket raffle also made a good profit with some very nice baskets created and assembled by Diana Johansing.

New business – Event volunteers

Jenni stressed that moving forward any parish event must require as part of its planning that a list of volunteer help be established before the event so that there is sufficient help with setup and cleanup. Much of the help for the raffle/picnic event fell on a couple of people and there needs to be assurances that there is plenty of help ahead of time in the future so this doesn't happen again. It was also suggested that all events have a clear start and end time.

Ongoing business – 100th Anniversary and Heritage Room: Janice reported

- Plans are moving forward for the 100th Anniversary dinner for parishioners on October 16. Postcard invitations will be mailed in the next few weeks with RSVP required to attend.
- Progress is being made and the Heritage Room is almost completed. It will highlight the history of the parish in honor of the 100th (101st) Anniversary of St. MM parish. Once completed there will be some discussion about the best way and times to allow access to the room since Covid will still require some restrictions to be observed. More to come on this topic.

Closing Prayer

Next PC meeting: Thur., Oct. 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz