

## Pastoral Council Update

December 2020

Your parish Pastoral Council met on December 10, 2020 (virtually, via Zoom). Our meeting began with prayer. At each meeting we read a scripture passage and reflect on its meaning in our lives. What does the reading say? What meaning does it have for us personally and as a parish?

After the approval of the minutes for the October meeting, we reviewed the various committee reports: The Welcoming Committee, The Social Media Committee, and the Publicity Committee. There were no comments, but we were all encouraged to follow the daily Advent Calendar that one of our parishioners had created.

Father Colagreco then reviewed the upcoming Christmas Mass schedule in light of the restrictions of Covid. Livestream would be provided at all the Masses on Christmas Day and at the 8 pm on Christmas Eve.

Father Colagreco then gave a brief overview of the parish financial information. He said that even though our parishioners have been generous our expenses have increased significantly. Recently all the school boilers had to be replaced and the cost was higher than anticipated. Other financial news was discussed.

The core of our meeting was a report from the Sub –Committee for Increasing Parish Participation. Joe Crimmins gave an overview of the work that has been done since the committee kicked off in July of 2019. The committee’s goal was to set a framework for how they will complete the work needed to achieve the goal of increasing parish participation by 1%. Discussion followed along the lines of: should we wait to reinstate the Focus Groups once the pandemic is over, or should we consider doing some of them via Zoom; should the Focus Groups include high school students; additional resources and help from parish members will be needed to continue both the Focus Groups and the ongoing continuity and success of the Sub-Committee’s work.

The Pastoral Council always spends a few minutes at the end of the meeting doing a self-evaluation and a closing prayer.

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council is February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pastoral Council is a consultative body which advises and assists the Pastor in areas of pastoral concern, including the development and implementation of a parish pastoral plan through consensus and prayerful reflection. It fosters participation of the entire parish in the life and mission of the Church. The Pastoral Council conducts nominations/elections annually.

The parish Pastoral Council consists of the following members:

Father Michael Colagreco, Father Brandon Artman, Deacon Chris Hilden, Sister Mary Barrar, Lucia Biddle, Linda Cellucci, Joe Crimmins, Meghan DiRosato, Denis Glavin, John Loughran, Maria Mooney, Jim Murphy, George Schaefer, Brigid Shank, Lori Smargiassi, and Theresa Haggerty

We encourage you to contact us at [pastoralcouncil@saintannies.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@saintannies.org)

We hope to have an updated photo at the end of the pandemic!

