

Pastoral Council Update October 2021



Your Parish Pastoral Council met in person for the first time in many months on October 14, 2021

Our meeting opened with a prayerful meditation on the season of fall and reflecting on “What spiritual gift does the autumn season offer you?”

Father Colagreco advised us that our current Mass attendance (based on a head count through the month of October) is about half of our pre-pandemic attendance.

There were two issues that were the focus of the meeting. The subcommittee report on Increasing Parish Participation, and a discussion about Mass attendance and its importance. Over the last few months, the subcommittee had met with representatives of a few local parishes (Sts. Simon and Jude, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Denis, and St. Norbert). The focus was to determine what are our similarities and differences, to ask them how they are experiencing “return” of parishioners post pandemic, and to see what they are doing or not doing to increase their own parish participation. Their research was both interesting and challenging.

The council then came to the issue of people returning to Mass post-pandemic. We broke into two small discussion groups to address the questions: Why did YOU come back to church? Do you know anyone who hasn’t returned and why? Has Mass attendance come up in conversation with other parishioners? What are some practical things we can do as a parish to invite and encourage folks to return? We returned from our small groups and had a vibrant discussion from our different perspectives. Especially noted is the importance of one to one contact with people, personal invitations to return to Mass, and the importance of the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives.

Our evaluation of the meeting was unanimous: we are happy to be back together in person!

Pastoral Council consists of the following members: Father Michael Colagreco, Father Brandon Artman, Deacon Chris Hilden, Sister Mary Barrar, Lucia Biddle, Joe Crimmins, Meghan DiRosato, Denis Glavin, John Loughran, Maria Mooney, Jim Murphy, George Schaefer, Lori Smargiassi, Jim Kirby, and Theresa Haggerty

Address your questions or comments to the Pastoral Council: pastoralcouncil@saintannies.org