

**Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 2016**

Call to Order 7:17 PM

Absent Lisa Ricci, Chris Raymond, Judi Ryan

Opening Prayer Amy

All members were concerned for Lisa's health and inquired what we could do to help her and her family. Susan updated and said she would contact Lisa to ask what they might need. Pastoral Council members and the parish's new "Shared Meal" ministry would be ready and able to help.

Progress Report of "old-business": Judi (in absentia).

Shared Meal Ministry is ready to go. Cards will be handed out at masses to ask for meal preparers and for requests for those in need of a meal. Those in need do not have to be a member of our parish. We welcome the outreach into the community.

Badges were handed out to council members to wear at mass and events. Badges will be made and distributed to other ministries including Greeters, Ushers/Collectors, EM's, and Lectors. We want to be visible "Ministers of Hospitality" who are available to our fellow parishioners.

MQP 9:30 mass time question: It seems as if starting the 9:30 mass on time and minor tweaking of other liturgy procedures has helped with the timing between the end of this mass and the beginning of the 11:00 mass. The mass time will stay at 9:30 for the foreseeable future.

Stand Up Salem, coalition for drug free Salem. Amy updated that there will be 2 workshops, one on February 11th to update the community on progress, and another in March. Salem is in the process of applying for a federal grant to fund a coordinator for the program for 5 years.

Gluten-Free host distribution process is in place and communicated via bulletin, website, announcements, and Facebook. Process will begin the weekend of January 23rd.

Ministry Sunday for the end of January is cancelled. We are looking to reschedule a "Joy of Ministry" event later in the year.

Family Promise of Greater Rockingham County is coming to our parish. We need to make some minor fire-safety improvements on the MQP campus, and Peter and Kristen Klecan are working to identify volunteer opportunities. They will report on our progress as we move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fr. Al is settling-in nicely. He loves the parish, and the parish loves him. Father Al hopes to remain with us as a Senior Priest in Residence.

Council Set Dates for PC Elections: May 5 & 12, Announcements in bulletin to begin April 9th; Nominees accepted until April 24th; **Set Dates for PC Retreat** September 9-10; **Expectations for PC Participation** was discussed and the document from last year was reviewed and all agreed to distribute again.

Homily Themes: There was much discussion and brainstorming for upcoming themes. Fr. Tom believes that parishes which use an annual theme structure are seeing much success reaching the congregation. There was concern, debate, and discussion that preaching on a theme for several weeks may not necessarily always correlate to the readings. We agreed to pray on the subject and communicate thoughts via email before the next meeting in February.

Projector/Screen usage at MQP—We have had positive feedback on the screen and having words to songs displayed during the 9:30 mass. We had discussions on how to best utilize the screen in a spiritually appropriate and effective manner. There was concern from Fr. Tom and Deacon Jay that the screen may be diverting attention away from the altar. Should we expand use of the screen at other masses for music? Should we put the readings on the screen? Should we just use it more for special masses? There was discussion about the pros and cons but no conclusions were reached. The screen will continue to be utilized at the 9:30 mass, and any additional content will be introduced only at the 9:30.

Closing Prayer—Therese 9:01pm