

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Zoom Meeting

May 8, 2021

Council members present: Rob Cassleman, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Owens, Eric Patera, Mary Schweitzer, Char Snekvik, Chair, and Charlotte Worthy. Also, Mary Sutherland, parish secretary

Opening Prayer - Our Father.

Finance Report (attached with this report): The report was accepted. Fr. Steve is pretty happy with it.

Continuing discussion about Mass at church: Not much has changed in the past two weeks except the WSU semester is over. Whitman County is below average on vaccinations given, probably because of the students. Many are probably waiting to be vaccinated at home. We've had one more death in the county due to Covid. The B117 variant has increased. The Brazilian variant is now at 15 % in the state.

We are starting outdoor masses at the church this weekend. So far six people have reserved the parking spaces by the lawn. Three tent canopies are up for shade and rain protection.

The governor published options for vaccinated and unvaccinated sections for religious services. We won't do that, the symbolism is awful. The Bishop has not weighed in on that yet. We will continue with all outdoor Masses as long as we are in Phase 2. The governor still requires masks in groups outdoors during this phase. There are many singing restrictions for indoor services, outdoors is better. *(We realize all the directives have changed since this May 8 meeting. The council meets again this Saturday, May 22, to go over the new directives).*

Pentecost May 23 – Knight's burrito breakfast: The Knights will have burritos available after the 8:30 & 10 am Masses on Sunday, May 23. People can sign up on Flocknote, and some extra will be available. Donations will go to St. Thomas More Catholic Student Center at WSU. They will ask CDA to help.

Coffee & doughnuts - when/how to start again: The Bishop has approved this. We need to be in Phase 3. We could have them in the courtyard between the church and social hall. The table could be in the shade next to the social hall. Should we have people hand them out as we did before? The staff will work on contacting the groups who helped with it.

Noon Mass – whether to continue with one per week and which day: Noon Mass has gone well. It averaged ten people, as high as 17. With the warmer weather, the 7:15 am Communion service and Masses can move outside. The plan is to start having them outside beginning May 17. There will be one noon Mass per week. It is better not to have it on Fridays because of funerals. We will try Tuesdays.

Converting grass on west side of church (along Maple St.) to xeriscape area. Laudato Si Disciples would like to do that: The idea is to remove the grass in that area and replace it with drought tolerant native plants and groundcover. The council discussed the idea and decided they would like to see a proposal. It could require a fair amount of maintenance to keep out weeds and keep it looking good.

On a related note, Fr. Steve found that the grass under the tent canopies requires less water. He turns the water on and off. The lawn care people are able to mow around the tents.

Remember to nominate people for parish boards: The council members will use the online form to nominate people before May 14, and encourage other parishioners to do so.

Property/remodeling decision? Kevin will ask the architects again when they will have the report ready. It has all been on hold. We can't make decisions without having a parish meeting. Maybe we can have an in-person meeting by fall with a Zoom option for those who would like that.

Parish tree health: The silver maple in the courtyard next to the annex needs to be trimmed away from the roof, and may need to be removed altogether if its roots are damaging the structure. The health of all the trees should be examined. The staff will find an arborist to check them out.

Pentecost May 23: There will be a normal Mass schedule. People will be encouraged to wear their Sacred Heart shirts, or red. There is a children's outdoor mini-VBS activity that day.

Next meeting: Saturday, May 22, 10 AM on Zoom.

Closing prayer: Glory Be

Submitted by Mary Sutherland