

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Zoom Meeting

July 13, 2021

Council members present: Alex Amado, Dan Canning, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Eric Patera, Char Snekvik, Chair, and Charlotte Worthy. And Mary Sutherland, parish secretary.

Opening Prayer - Our Father.

Virus status report: Information from Whitman County is fairly spotty right now. The Hispanic population in Whitman County as a whole is only 4% vaccinated. The Hispanic people Alex knows in Pullman are nearly all vaccinated. A number of council members have relatives who don't want the vaccine for various reasons. It is important to gently let people know that the vaccines are safe and effective.

Indoor Mass: Fr. Steve reported that Mass inside at 4:30 pm Saturday is going well. It's not overloaded, but it is summer. There are nine air purifiers. Many people are asking when the other Masses are going indoors. We will have at least one Mass outdoors all summer for people who prefer that (many do). The smoke is a complicating factor. Should we move the Masses inside when the air is unhealthy?

Mass numbers:

	4:30 PM	8:30 AM (all outdoors)	11 or 10 AM (all outdoors)	Total
June 19 & 20	48 (outdoors)	39	82 (11 AM)	169
June 26 & 27	45 (outdoors)	62	62 (11 AM)	152
July 3 & 4	65 (indoors)	54	40 (10 AM)	159
July 10 & 11	54 (indoors)	66	58 (10 AM)	178

(An additional 16 people came at 11 AM on July 4 since they hadn't heard about the change in Mass times, so Fr. Steve held a communion service for them.)

Some who usually went to the 8:30 outdoor Mass are coming to the indoor 4:30. People like being inside at the daily Masses. Just a few people have needed mask reminders. It was getting too hot at 11 am outdoors.

Decisions about Masses: If the air is unhealthy, we need to be able to safely move all Masses indoors. To do that, the council and Fr. Steve decided to add an additional Mass indoors at 11 am Sunday. That should spread people out enough that we wouldn't get too many at the 8:30 or 10 am if they had to go inside. We will ask people to be sure to sign up for any Mass, so none of them get too crowded, and to bring a mask to wear indoors if the air is bad.

We will leave the indoor Mass sign-up at 60; we can fit in maybe a dozen more, but that will allow for people who have no computers for sign-up, and for people arriving from out of town.

Vaccination Survey: According to the county, two thirds of the community is unvaccinated. If we knew that a high percentage of parishioners (about 90%) was vaccinated, it would be safe to have more indoor Masses, and even have optional masking. Mary will send out an anonymous survey to parishioners asking how many 12 and over in the household have been vaccinated.

Future plans: We need to be able to have Christmas Masses indoors. We will work on adding more air purifiers between the pews after putting them back in their normal positions. We may get as many as 16, and move them up off the floor where they do more good. They don't draw a lot of electricity, but Don Snekvik will look at the electrical capacity and see if we need to add another breaker box.

Smaller air purifiers can be used in the classrooms.

New weekend Mass schedule: 4:30 pm indoors, 8:30 am outdoors, 10 am outdoors, 11 am indoors. Mary will find more lectors and ushers and notify the current ministers.

Next meeting: Saturday, July 31, 10 am, on Zoom.

Closing prayer: Glory Be

Submitted by Mary Sutherland