

11/2020 Pastoral Council Minutes Summary

The meeting was begun with a prayer by Jim Benson, Chairperson.

Jack Hastings, guest, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, shared the Committee's mission and goals.

- Initiative 2020-2021: "God First," which will be a "challenge" to develop stewardship as a way of life rather than simply a financial campaign. The focus is to be on educating parishioners to share their time and talent, not just their treasure.
- Pastoral council members were asked to be positive examples individually and collectively, to -
 - Recruit additional ministry members to the committee (goal of 3);
 - Encourage stewardship as a state of mind;
 - Focus on relationship building (for example, introducing ourselves to other parishioners at mass); and
 - Spreading the news of stewardship opportunities by word of mouth, and by praying for the commission's ministries.

Pastor's Update:

- Introduction of Fr. Joseph and that he will be "in residence" likely through December.
- Since the annual Thanksgiving meal will not be held this year due to COVID-19 precautions, the money set aside has been donated to charity.
- The 12-noon mass will return on the second Sunday of Advent. The Spanish mass will return to its former time of 2:30.
- The highest mass attendance since the beginning of the pandemic was approximately 340 at the most recent 10 am mass, which is about 28% of pre-pandemic levels.
- Regarding Christmas services, the mass at Langtree has been canceled for this year. This year there will be Christmas eve masses at 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 pm, and on Christmas Day at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm (Spanish). Since seating is limited, families are encouraged to attend a later mass on Christmas Eve or mass on Christmas Day. There are no plans for reservations.
- There would be no Advent penance service this year, but times for the sacrament of Reconciliation will be extended.
- Fr. Mark met with George Cobb, Diocesan Director of Planning, about the draft of our Pastoral Parish Plan. He hopes to submit an update by the end of the calendar year.

Pastoral Council Chair Update:

- Council members were reminded to stay current with *Protecting God's Children*.
- A new set of Pastoral Council Bylaws has been accepted by Fr. Mark. These will be posted on the website.

Finance Council update:

- The projection for the yearly offertory has been dropped from \$1.8M to \$1.5M, reflecting an anticipated shortfall due to low mass attendance; the offertory is up 7%, exceeding expectations.
- The need to replenish our reserves for campus maintenance, repair, and updates, plus debt reduction was emphasized.

Stewardship Update:

- Held a *Living Your Strengths* program for Pastoral Council members. Council members who have not taken the program were encouraged to do so. Another course will be offered Jan. 4 and Jan. 11.
- The "Call script" for volunteers on the welcome committee to call new parishioners has been revised. The parish has anywhere from 10-35 new families join every month.

Buildings and Facilities Commission Update: - No further news.

Community Ministries Commission Update:

- The Coat and the Food drives were both considered very successful.
- Giving Trees were going up this weekend and donations are to be turned in by Dec.6th.

Ecumenism Commission Update:

- The need for additional members with ideas to contact other church denominations was emphasized.

Education and Formation Commission Update:

- A “glitch “in the St. Mary’s Press software had interrupted some faith formation classes, but it has been resolved.
- The 7th-grade retreat had 128 participants. The Youth leader has utilized FORMED in their retreat.
- A Book Cart proposal was discussed but tabled due to COVID-19 and logistical concerns.
- A statement for the Commission’s purpose and procedures is nearing completion.

Liturgy and Worship Commission Update:

- Indoor guidelines have been adjusted due to the governor’s mandate.
- Two staff members (Rosemary Hyman and Mollie Anderson) have taken training for the *Stephen Ministry* (a one-on-one, care-giving helping ministry, with 50 hours of certification training) and will be encouraging others to do so as well.
- Lectors are signed up for masses through November, and Altar Servers will be invited back soon.

Parish Life Commission Update:

- *Scripture and Spirits* was held through Zoom, hosted by Deacon Joe Santen. The topic was “Who Goes to Heaven?”.

Evangelization/Communication Commission Update:

- The council member liaison just resigned; so no update was available.

Latino Ministry Update:

- The ministry still needs a Chair and member liaison to the Pastoral Council.

Parish Manager’s report:

- Repairs to the church HVAC are mostly complete.
- The Confirmation retreat had to be postponed because of the number of people in a gathering reverting back to 10, per the governor’s orders.

New Business

- Posting of the minutes of the Pastoral Council meetings on the church website was revisited. The council decided to post an abbreviated version.
- A question was asked about singing during mass. The Diocesan guidelines were discussed and Fr. Mark clarified that the keyboard player, cantor, and a few choir members will sing, but that there should be no congregational singing.

Father Mark then closed the meeting with a prayer.