

Joint Parish Council Minutes 2020-01-14

Summary

The joint Parish Council of Holy Spirit and St. Joseph's is engaged in an intentional collaboration process to share ministries and resources for the long-term benefit of both communities. This meeting explored what we have accomplished to date, areas of ministry we are currently working on, and concerns as we move forward as stakeholders in our future.

Chairs' Welcome

Has anyone heard anything about the joint effort?

- Holy Spirit's bulletin advertisements did not show up in the most recent joint bulletin. LPi has apologized and credited all of the advertisers.
- The Join bulletin shows that we have a lot to offer between the two parishes.

There is an upcoming joint Faith Formation Team meeting scheduled.

The Soup Suppers are coming up.

- The deacons could take turns assisting with the Stations of the Cross.
- We need help with cooks.
 - A group makes a few different simple soups and serves a meal (possibly salad, bread, and fruit). The contents of the meal is up to the group to decide.
- The suppers are all of the Fridays during Lent except for Good Friday. Starting on February 28.
- Groups can cook in the Holy Spirit Kitchen or at home.

Soup Supper Details / Actions

- Contact Shari Magagnoli (shari.magagnoli@dor.org, 585-671-5520) if you would like to help with Soup Suppers.
- We should call them "Simple Suppers" to allow for flexibility in the meals. (HS Youth Group made grilled cheese last year.)
- They open at 6:00PM. Stations of the Cross begin at 7:00PM.
- Current schedule is:
 - February 28 – possibly staff
 - March 6 – HS Knights of Columbus
 - March 13
 - March 20 – HS Choir
 - March 27 – HS Knights of Columbus
 - April 3

Joint Lenten Retreat, March 29-31

- We have a team to help facilitate the retreat.
- Wednesday April 1 is the DOR Day of Penance so the retreat can build right into that.
- The retreat will take place at both parish sites.
- There will be a morning component to the retreat.

Lenten Retreat Actions

- If you would like to help with the Lenten Retreat contact Fr. Jeffrey Chichester (fr.jeffrey.chichester@dor.org).
- The next step for the team is to get in touch with Fr. Fragomeni to figure out logistics.

- We should ask Fr. Fragomeni if he could give us some teasers that we could use to help advertise the retreat.

Discovering Christ

- The program begins on Monday February 24, 6:30PM – 8:45PM in the St. Joseph’s Learning Center.
- Each meeting begins with dinner for about half an hour.
- We could always use help in hosting each meeting.
- We will be creating a postcard to send to the entire database of both parishes to try to reach out to everyone in an attempt to bring those who may not see our regular advertisements into the church.
- It is an outstanding program, especially for Lent.

Discovering Christ Actions

- You can sign up to attend the program on the St. Joseph’s website. (<https://sjcpenfield.com/christlife>)

Sister Parish Collaboration - Why, What, and How

Why We Are Collaborating

- Sharing is a Gospel value and a response to the Lord’s call.
- There are no longer enough priest in the Diocese for each parish to have it’s own pastor. We are blessed to have a pastor, parochial vicar, and an active retired priest in residence.
- Both parishes are experiencing some finance struggles but nothing that a little belt-tightening cannot solve. Money is tight but we are both safe, stable, and in the black as long as we are smart about spending.

What We Are Doing To Collaborate

- One method is by sharing staff between the two, such as priest, finance director, and others.
- Another method is by sharing resources and programs, such as Faith Formation. Holy Spirit and St. Joseph’s offer different methods of Faith Formation and on different days from each other.
- We are looking at ways to combine our Sacramental Preparation programs as well while keeping the actually Sacraments at the person’s respective parish.
- We formed a Collaboration Team in Spring of 2019 to advance our collaborative efforts.

How We Got To This Point

- **2005:** Fr. Jim appointed pastor at St. Joseph’s
- **2014:** St. Joseph’s and Holy Spirit start sharing Fr. Jim as pastor, a parochial vicar, and finance director
- **2015:** Deacons, priests, pastoral associates start sharing hospital visitation
- **2019:** Collaboration team assembled; joint Parish Council begins; Faith Formation staff working together on Home Family; first joint bulletins, Christmas card, and stewardship communications
- **2020:** Promoting all adult Lenten opportunities to both parishes: Sister Parish Retreat, ChristLife, Soup Suppers & Stations of the Cross; planning joint Easter card; will continue joint bulletins

Table Discussion

Where else do we want to go? What is our future going to look like? What is the goal? What are your questions? What are our greatest concerns?

- We have not heard much negativity at either parish. No real concerns
- We are still in the “year of firsts”. We may need to get through an entire liturgical year before we can really see what people’s reactions are.
- We realize that things change over time (such as the priests) but we can make that change easier with the work that we are doing now.
- We might be able to share liturgical ministers at some point.

- Would it be practical to expect them to adjust to the differences between the parishes as the priests and deacons do?
- Would the protocol at the Masses between the parishes need to be examined and best practices put in place before considering sharing lay liturgical ministers.
- How can we try to grow the community instead of planning for its shrinkage?
- Do we prepare for Holy Spirit to possibly close in the future as other parishes have?
- How are we educating our parishioners to understand that we can accomplish our parish life when the pastor is not present each weekend?
- Will there ever be a time when there is only one priest assigned to both HS and SJC? What could we put in place in anticipation of this?
- How can we reach out to the general community and how do we react when people reach out to us?
- While some parishioners may be concerned about the viability of Holy Spirit, it says something that the Parish Hall Roof and Renovations were completely funded practically up front by the parishioners.
- With about 610 families at Holy Spirit and about 2,000 families at St. Joseph's we have a lot of people to bring in to work with us.
- How do we foster collaboration?
- Are we using this opportunity to further develop our lay ministry and empowering the parishioners and the pastoral staff for ministry in all areas of parish life?
- Are we doing enough evangelization in the neighborhoods surrounding our parishes? How are we seen by our neighbors in the community?
- The Saint Joseph School is doing well but how can we better promote it?
- Can we collaborate with our Operations Teams? Can we leverage buying power for supplies we both need?
- We can speak to collaboration at all parts of the Mass.
- Not hearing anything from the people might mean that they do not really understand what is happening with the collaboration.
- Do we even know how we are trying to collaborate?
- We must communicate the need and the reason for the need if and when we make a change at either parish.
- We need to invite more people to the Parish Council Meetings.
- We as parish council members need to become ambassadors for the collaboration efforts. The timeline under "How We Got To This Point" is a good start to give us talking points.
- We should not try to split events between the parishes artificially. People have tended to reject those efforts.
- We should talk more about events that happen at both parishes.
- We would like to see some data on parishioner crossover.
- We need to create fliers on the calls for help that would be easy to distribute.
- The Collaborative process is a reaction to the state of the larger Church. It is not a pet project of any person or group at either parish.
- We should start to have joint Leadership Team Meetings every so often.

Miscellaneous Action Items

- We need to communicate better about why, what, and how we are working on collaboration.
- We need to share when our Leadership Team Meetings are.
- We should think about inviting the entirety of each of the Leadership Teams to the Parish Council Meetings so that they may become more invested in fostering collaboration.

Parish Council Remaining Meeting Schedule: February 18 at St. Joseph's, May 19 at Holy Spirit, June 16 at St. Joseph's