FAITH FORMATION-SERVICE-LITURGY-STEWARDSHIP-EVANGELIZATION

ST. STEPHEN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021 Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Middle School

In Attendance: Fr. George Gannon, Fr. Paul Breczinski, Drew Bonthron, Jim Kalinosky, Nicole Kalinosky, Bob Melewski, Isabelle Schucker, Mary Morgan, Deacon Frank Laws, Rene Monaghan, Pat Budzynski, Joe Burns, Terrance Golden, Brother William Ciganek, Sam Miller, Sr. Angela DeFontes

Members Unable to Attend: Craig Bryant, Tim McNamara, Andrew Bateman, Rob Hott

Opening:

- Jim Kalinosky began the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Pat Budzynski led our opening prayer.
- All members read our Parish Mission Statement:

"We, the parish of St. Stephen, will carry out the mission of Jesus Christ, as a welcoming, worshipping, Catholic Community by sharing, growing and living the Gospel."

Routine Council Business:

- Meeting Notes from October 6, 2021 were approved without changes.

Introductory Comments:

- Jim Kalinosky welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Jim led all members through singing "Happy Birthday" to those with recent birthdays.
- Jim discussed that he reached out to the Parish Council chairs at seven other parishes a few months ago. Of these parishes, the chairs from St. Ursula's and St. Mark's reached out. Jim went to St. Ursula's Council meeting last month and received some ideas from them; he also gave their council some advice. Jim hopes that the chairs from those two parishes can attend one of our meetings. This concept of communicating between parishes actually fits in with the Synod of the Church.

Pastor's Comments:

- Fr. George thanked everyone for attending the meeting in person.
- On Thanksgiving, Mass will be held in the Church at 7:30 and 9 a.m.
- On the first Sunday of Advent, November 28, a new mass schedule will be implemented and announced on Flocknote. The parish has been tracking the mass numbers with the help of the ushers; there are currently about ⅔ of the people from before the pandemic that are attending mass. This is about 55-60%

of where the parish numbers were, but they are increasing each week as more people are returning. The parishioners are welcoming to those choosing to wear masks and those not wearing masks. The new mass schedule includes:
    - Saturday - 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the Church; 3:30-4 p.m. Confessions
    - Sunday - 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (live streamed), 10:30 a.m., and 12 p.m. in the Church; 11 a.m. in the Hall; 1:30 p.m. Baptisms in the Church
- Fr. George spoke to Monsignor Jay O'Connor about these mass time changes and to review the outdoor mass. He decided to bring the Saturday 6 p.m. mass inside beginning that same weekend, November 27.
- Fr. George thanked all those who volunteered at the outdoor mass to make it possible for the last 18 months; it was a great experience for those parishioners who felt more comfortable outside.
- He will call the Catholic Review to see if they would like to do a story on the parish's willingness and longevity of having the outdoor mass since the pandemic.
- The parish can also be flexible and move the Mass outside again if the Covid numbers increase.
- The parish will also review the Christmas Schedule to determine if an outside mass should be present.
- Fr. George thanked Jim and Nicole for representing the parish at the Mass beginning the Synod.
- On November 19, Fr. Paul and Fr. George will be attending the Mass for more information about the Synod. They hope to get a synopsis of the document that will need to be produced to send to the Archdiocese.
- At the December 1 Parish Council meeting, the council will go through the Synod process as a group before the meeting for all parishioners and ministries on December 2.
- The choir will also be returning to mass this weekend with an organ accompanist.

Financials:
- Bob announced that they had closed the books for the first 3 months of the year.
- The operating income was almost $14,000; the net income was down about $64,000 due to the costs of the new parish center, convent renovation to be the new rectory, and painting and roof repairs to the Church.
- The income increased about 15% compared to the first 3 months of 2020.
- The money collected during Mass has been helpful as many have returned to in-person Mass.

New Business:
- The council began to discuss the Synod and video from Archbishop Lori.
- Jim and Nicole attended the Opening Mass for the Synod and discussed the Homily with the Council; it was a condensed version of the video that addressed

the three parts: Communication, Participation, and Mission. The synod will be implemented by making these three focal points even if they are already present.

- The process of implementation will probably evolve as time goes by; the parish just needs to be aware of and work on these points. It will be a multi-year process. After the meeting on November 19, Fr. George and Fr. Paul will have more information on how to implement this into our parish.
- The structure should actually blend in nicely with the questions that the parish has been discussing for years. This includes how to increase the number of parishioners and how to keep them involved in the parish. It will also look for communication within the Archdiocese and help to address any issues.
- This is a good opportunity for the Parish to get new ideas on how to grow.
- Sam asked if there would be specific goals for the parish at the end of the 2 years. Jim added that he does not believe specific goals will be created, but the parish will be working towards the three points through discussion and structure; it is more of a spirit-driven process.
- Deacon Frank added that the primary purpose is to listen to what is going on between the parishes and to make goals and a plan from there.
- Sr. Angela discussed that the parish did a survey 5-6 years ago, but we never truly addressed all of the topics brought up by the parishioners. She is hoping that this process will be another opportunity to work on some of the same issues and come up with a plan to fix or work towards the goals. We can listen to the parishioners, process the information, and possibly do something about it.
- The hope is that increased communication will lead to increased participation and discipleship. The focal points build on themselves.
- This will be a 2 year process, and the information received from parishioners will take time to process and be developed into plans.
- This is also a time to get a perspective as to where young people are in their faith along with their families.
- Fr. George also added that they completed the “Honest Conversations on Racism” Program. It was a 4 week program with about 20-25 people attending each class. There were many honest and polite conversations and a respectful environment. The council discussed that this program was a great opportunity for the Parish; the Sisters are actually doing a similar concept within their communities that focuses on a deeper level of thinking and time for reflection.

Committee Reports:

Service -

- The service committee will have their next meeting in December. Their next steps include continuing the Honest Conversations discussion.

Liturgy -

- New altar servers began helping out at Mass. There was also a Zoom meeting for the ushers, Eucharistic ministers, and lectors to catch up with one another; they will be having another zoom meeting next week.
- Adoration took place on Monday, November 1. The altar servers were also able to serve at the All Soul's Remembrance Mass.

Evangelization -

- The committee is trying to boost attendance by bringing back Community Sundays once a month at the 11 a.m. Mass in the Hall. The dates will be listed in the Bulletin to help spread the word.
- Community Sunday begins on November 21; they are working with Nicole Smith to invite those new to the parish, the newly baptized, and those recently married. Kellie Reynolds will also be present at this Mass, and the council will present her with her Certificate.
- The Friendly Callers Ministry is having a meeting on November 16 to see how everything is going. They have 22 parishioners getting calls from 12 callers. They are also working with Nicole Smith to make a prayer intention space on the website; these intentions would be printed and included in the intercessory prayer at Mass. It is going to work like the prayer box.

Faith Formation -

- 207 children are attending classes on Sundays or are being homeschooled.
- There is a good number of catechists, but substitutes are needed; please let Brother William know if you are available to help.
- There are not many families are taking advantage of the 11 a.m. mass in the Hall; about 20 people have attended this mass after their class at the past 2 masses.
- This ministry has had a discussion with the Evangelization committee on how to increase the numbers at this mass.
- Brother William and Aubrey had their first class with the parents while their children were in class. Three parents attended and enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to teach their children about Mary. They plan to have another meeting this weekend about Advent education.
- The Scripture Studies and bereavement groups have also been going very well.
- Some parishioners have also reached out to Sr. Angela hoping to join RCIA and be confirmed.

Principal's Report:

- Mr. Golden discussed that the school prays together each morning over the P.A. system, and they prayed a decade of the Rosary each morning in October. The school also had a beautiful ceremony for the Miracle of Fatima Celebration on October 13.

- The school had their first field trip since the pandemic, and hopes there are more to come.
- Since the beginning of the school year, masses have been outside monthly. They would like to increase Mass times and allow students to go to the Church while masked. A monthly mass would be present for the entire school. One half of the school will go to the Church for Mass one week, and the other half would go the next week; each student would be attending Mass at school twice a month.
- The school has also allowed students to meet with their Prayer Partners again.
- The Athletic Program is doing great. Both the soccer and volleyball teams won their championships.
- They have had a few Spirit Nights and Fundraisers with great outcomes for the school.
- Some students are quarantined here and there, but this is mostly due to being in contact with a positive case of Covid outside of the school campus.
- Student enrollment is at capacity; the Open House this week was being held for students to enroll in the next school year.
- The email incident with the school has settled down within the past few weeks.

Closing Prayer:
- All members said “The Prayer of St. Francis” together.

Future PPC Meetings:
- Wednesday, December 1, 2021
- Wednesday, January 5, 2022
- Wednesday, February 2, 2022

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Submitted,

Isabelle Schucker, Secretary
November 3, 2021