

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 4TH, 2024

This meeting was held at St. Gregory School library. Laura Dadey and Father Jim called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Laura started the meeting with an opening prayer.

Those in attendance: Father Jim, Laura Dadey, Carol Nocera, Rosina Betz, Valeria Bucek, Devon Cortez, Joyce Gaydosz and Judy Shearer.

Laura made a motion to accept the February minutes. Motion passed.

Sacramental updates:

❖ Holy Week

Clergy remarks

- Clergy team impressed with the number of confessions. Many of those members have been away from the sacrament for a while.
- Literacy attendance has increased during the Holy Triduum, Vigil, and Easter Sunday.

Council remarks

- Happy to see the churches full again.
 - Holy Redeemer was full at 9am with people standing.
 - Vigil at Holy Redeemer and St. Gregory were beautiful and well attended, but not full.
- ❖ Father Jim is considering changing the Vigil mass at HR to 7:30 P.M and maybe add a second mass at 10am on Easter Sunday in 2025.
- ❖ Carol asked Father Jim to write an article in the bulletin explaining what the Master of Ceremonies means in the Catholic Church. Explaining that many parishioners don't understand the purpose of this role.
- ❖ 97 Eighth graders will receive the sacrament of confirmation on April 6th, 110 Second grades will receive First Communion, 12 new members initiated over Easter (Around 20 new members initiated in the past year at Divine Grace Parish).

Regionalization of Elementary Schools Updates:

- ❖ Butler and Beaver are the last two counties. The change will take place this summer.
- ❖ Students and parents should not be impacted. Teachers will be slightly impacted. More standardization across the region.
- ❖ St. Gregory is part of the North Region.
- ❖ Father Jim will continue to teach 8th grade religion class.

Assignment of a New Parochial Vicar update:

- ❖ The new Parochial Vicar will start on July 1st. Father Jim does not have a name yet.

Annual Parish Appeal Update:

- ❖ 2024 Annual Parish Appeal goal is \$450,000. \$332,000 received as of April 4th.
- ❖ The parish budget is healthy. We have a temporary surplus because we are understaffed.

Holy Redeemer Renovations Update:

- ❖ HR renovations are scheduled to last 10 weeks.

- ❖ Catholic Center is set up.
- ❖ The Diocese did not permit Catholic funerals to take place at Sam Teolis Funeral Home. Funeral mass is allowed either at the Catholic Center, St. Gregory or St. Ferdinand.
- ❖ Carole voiced her concern regarding parking availability for mass at the Catholic Center, especially for elderly parishioners. ALL HR masses are full. Father Jim might consider adding an additional temporary mass on Sundays during renovation at Holy Redeemer.

Staff Appointments:

- ❖ Jennifer Livorse – Facilitator for Parish Ministries and Organizations, is doing a great job. She is working with all the various ministries and preparing for the Ministries Summit.
- ❖ Jason Gawaldo – Coordinator of Catechetical Ministries will be officially starting on May 1st. However, he has been working to organize and prepare for VBS.
- ❖ Father Jim appointed Michael Assaf as the new Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
- ❖ A Coordinator of Marketing, Outreach & Communications job description has been posted on the diocesan website on April 3rd. Father Jim already received two resumes.
- ❖ Jennifer Livorse will oversee the Marketing and Communications department. Alena Kucan title will change from Communication Coordinator to Multi-Media Content Specialist. The new coordinator will be her direct supervisor.
- ❖ Website redesign will be discussed when the new coordinator is hired.

Ministries Summit:

- ❖ An email invite was sent to all ministry leaders inviting them to attend. Jennifer is asking that at least two people attend from each ministry. Summit dates are May 4th and June 15th.
- ❖ Each ministry will be asked to summarize their ministry mission in a paragraph with information on how to join. Jennifer is working on creating an easy to access directory.
- ❖ The ultimate goal is Parish Unity.
- ❖ New ministry – Walking with moms in need.
- ❖ WALKING WITH MOMS COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER
Sunday, April 14, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
St. Ferdinand Campus | Oldenski Hall | Cranberry Township, PA

Next Generation Parish Initiative Update:

- ❖ Judy mentioned the next meeting will be in person on April 15th.
- ❖ Father Jim is asking all teams to Pause-Slow Down-Communicate.
- ❖ Father Jim is also asking to trust the staff to do what needs to be done and allow time to complete tasks. Change takes time.
- ❖ Things are moving in the right direction, but need to slow down. A lot of ideas to decipher.

Raffle Basket Festival Donation:

- ❖ The Festival raffle baskets chairperson stepped down.
- ❖ 2024 new idea – Each ministry creates its own basket for the festival. Should be done by end of July.

- ❖ Rosina agreed to coordinate the process of putting the Pastoral Council basket together. All members are to assist in collecting donations for the basket from local businesses.
- ❖ Judy will email the parish donation letter to send to local businesses.
- ❖ Pastoral Council basket idea – Sample (Taste) of Divine Grace. The idea is to have a few Divine Grace logo items along with gift certificates or offers from local businesses in Ellwood City, Zelienople and Cranberry.

Discernment of Our Parish Activity:

- ❖ Father Jim asked us to use our answers to the questions asked last meeting to write an article or create a fun page in the bulletin that highlights what our new parish is doing well, and what our parish is doing that can be done better.
- ❖ The council discussed various ideas and decided to write a letter from the Pastoral Council to our parishioners in the bulletin highlighting 1. What our new parish is doing well and 2. What our parish is currently working on to grow and unite the parish. In addition, the letter will ask the parishioners to share with us “what they believe we are not doing, that we should be doing” by emailing their suggestions. Laura is going to work on the letter.

Laura concluded the meeting with a closing prayer at 8:30 P.M

The next meeting will be held at St. Gregory School Library on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by:

Joyce Gaydosz