



DIVINE GRACE PARISH

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2024

St Gregory's Library-6:30p.m.

The meeting commenced at St. Gregory's Library, with Father Jim calling it to order at 6:30 p.m. He began with a prayer, offering special intentions for the deceased members of our parish and families, for national unity following the recent elections, for peace in the Middle East and the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and for the well-being of our parish and pastoral council. The prayer concluded with the recitation of the "Our Father."

Attendees included: Father Jim, Judy Shearer, Shalini Savio, Tim Maloney, Rosina Betz, Valerie Bucek, Chris Baker, Jennifer Livorse and Joyce Gaydosz. Also a former council member from St. Ferdinand attended the meeting, Rich Watson.

Judy proposed a motion to approve the September Minutes, motion to approve was granted by Valeria Bucek and Tim Maloney.

1) Parish Vocational Council Update (Seminarian, Chris Baker)

- How can we promote vocation for priesthood and consecrated life for men and women. Our parish began the initiative and Chris was asked by Fr. Jim to chair the council and discern recommendations.
- Chris spoke about the current council initiative. The council has been meeting once a month to discuss ways to promote vocations. One of the ways that has started already, is the vocation chalice. It's where a family takes the chalice home, and has the opportunity to pray with it for vocation.
- Another idea, which was suggested by one of our youth group kids, is a podcast. Chris came up with the idea of youth interviewing some clergy team or seminarian to post on the parish' youtube page. Hope that it will be widespread among youth.
- Inputs are welcome.
- Fr. Jim and Chris teach seventh and eighth grade religion at St. Gregory Catholic School. Hoping to promote vocation life in the classroom as well.
- Father Dan and Chris started an initiative to recruit and train young people to serve at St. Ferdinand due to a shortage in altar servers. St. Gregory installed 18 altar servers in October.
- Father Jim thanked Chris for having a positive impact among the youth and young adults in our parish and for his positive experience with a seminarian.



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2) Ministry Update (Jennifer Livorse)

- Jennifer has created a weekly schedule enabling her to visit all three churches regularly. Her presence at all three campuses allows her to collaborate with and support the various ministries effectively.
- The Ministries List has been completed for the most part.
- Jennifer aims to be the primary contact person for all ministries. She is available via email or phone and is happy to attend ministry events.
- Jennifer has started a monthly ministry newsletter to share updates and news, which is emailed to all ministries.
- Jason, Michael, and Jennifer work closely to ensure effective communication and collaboration. Jason oversees the Bible study groups.
- Jen oversees over 80 groups. Groups are broken down in a variety of avenues, including 10 liturgical, 4 music, 11 outreach, 9 prayer, 9 service, 8 social, 8 volunteer, 13 apostolates, 5 other or pastoral support, 6 affiliated groups, 12 formation groups and youth. Main goal is to ensure that all ministries communicate effectively.
- Divine Grace Parish has now a new wedding coordination group that works with all three churches.
- Potential plan for a Liturgical ministry revival in the spring.
- Looking for more volunteers to help with the hospitality ministry.
- More ministries are still up and coming.
- Jen and Deacon Don are still working on a ministries email list and a parish events calendar.

3) New Generational Parish (NGP) Update

- The Next Generation Parish Progress report will be available for all parishioners in November, 2024 and will be on the website. It's an organic report that will be updated every 6 months. The final phase will be in 2026. The Catholic Leader Institute, who is facilitating the endowment will send a new survey to get an update on the parish's progress.
- The implementation team meets every other month. There is a team for each priority and a team for each goal.
- The parish staff will be implementing the goals.
- Mass attendance has increased since Covid.
- One of the pastoral council members suggested adding graphs and numbers to the spring report to show our growth as a parish.



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4) Parish Census

- The diocese has developed a plan outlining how parishes should conduct a parish census. Our parish includes 7,000 households.
- Fr. Jim has observed that some adult children remain registered under their parents' names, and some elderly parishioners have moved in with their children at the same address.
- Fr. Jim is proposing the hiring of a part-time staff member to contact parishioners and update their information.
- It has been noted that some parishioners are registered at both St. Killian and Divine Grace, while others are not registered at all.

5) Post Election Observation

- Father Jim talks prior to election were well received
- Post election mass that was announced prior to election was also well received.

6) Pastoral Updates:

Annual Parish Appeal - As of July, 2022 the diocese takes three years of the parish total income, coming up with an average, around 11% . Our three years was \$450,000 and every year we have to raise it. We exceeded that number in the last two years, we were close to \$700,000. Anything past the \$450,000, the first \$100,000 does not get assessed. Anything past that gets assessed for the next time. Our new number is a little over \$500,000 for the next three years and will not start until July 2025. Around 2000 parishioners support the parish appeal.

Communications Department Update

- Michael Marchionda, the Communication Director resigned.
- Looking for a new Director.
- Bulletin is still a work in progress.
- A number of projects are currently on hold until the new director is hired.

St. Gregory Organ Repair - Organ refurbishment project will cost \$560,000. A fundraising campaign will be starting in December to raise the funds.

St. Ferdinand's Organ Repair - The organ at St. Ferdinand is not fixable. Need to buy a new one soon. It can cost up to \$1 million.

New Rectory Roof - \$100,000 new roof was installed.



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St. Gregory's Lighting - \$100,000 raised for lighting project

Continuation of Renovation Project at St. Ferdinand's -A total of \$2.4 million has been raised to renovate Oldenski Hall, including updates to the kitchen, restrooms, and other necessary improvements. Fr. Jim plans to hold a town meeting to gather parishioners' opinions and ideas about how the funds should be utilized. The remodeling is scheduled to begin in 2026.

7) Evangelical Workshop Opportunity- Invite One Back December 5th, 9-4pm - Training session offered by the diocese. Reservations required, but all are welcome.

8) January--Epiphany New Year Social Reception - Fr. Jim would like to host a social event for the Pastoral council, finance council, parish staff, the envisioning ministry team, and implementation team. The goal is to enjoy each other's company and reflect on the good work that took place in the past two years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm with a closing prayer.