



DIVINE GRACE PARISH

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes September 12, 2024 St Gregory's Library-6:30p.m.

The meeting took place at St. Gregory's library, with Laura Dadey and Father Jim calling it to order at 6:30 p.m. Father Jim opened the meeting with a prayer asking for our blessed mother's intercession.

Attendees included: Father Jim, Laura Dadey, Shalini Savio, Patrick Savio, Tim Maloney, Angela Maloney, Rosina Betz, Valerie Bucek, and Joyce Gaydosz.

Laura proposed a motion to approve the April Minutes, approval was granted.

1. Welcome our New Coordinator of Marketing and Mission, Mr. Michael Marchionda

Michael was unable to attend the meeting, so he put a video together. The video was a 4-minute introduction along with a folder that highlighted some communication efforts. Michael started at the beginning of August.

In the video, Michael highlighted some of the things they have been doing in the communication department:

- Updating the bulletin with a fresh, magazine-inspired look and feel, featuring engaging stories. Roll out scheduled for October 6th.
- Revamping the website in collaboration with our vendor, eCatholic. The new design will feature a large navigation area for quick links, all styled in Divine Grace colors and customized with personal information. Website updates are expected to be finalized by mid-October.
- Video Programming will be increased significantly. Father Jim will be doing a weekly show called "Ordinary Time with Father Jim". The show will be a reflection on Sunday readings or some aspect of worship of liturgy that promotes the season of ordinary time.
- Father Joe will be doing a podcast called "Faith Unshaken".
- Father Dan will be going deeper into the liturgy with "Deep goes to Deep".
- "Speaking with the Deacon" with Deacon Don Pepe.
- The communication department has been active helping Father Jim with the new St. Gregory restoration fundraising project.
- Michael will be sending a family festival survey to all the volunteers, and will be sending out an attendee survey to collect data to make our festival even better next year.
- Created a new guide to the catholic funeral mass for attendees at funerals.
- Eucharistic procession flyers have been created. Also, planning on flying a drone that day to get images of the procession to show everyone.



DIVINE GRACE PARISH

- They will be sending out press releases to all local outlets, print and broadcast. Hopefully that will turn into actual news feed to get more feeds about our events.
- Planning on more presence on social media. Created a new LinkedIn account. Watch out for all the new channels. X-channel is coming out soon.
- Next generation parish progress report will be published soon.
- In the fall, a new parish guide for ministries will be published to list all the ministries and the wonderful things that we are doing at Divine Grace Parish.

Father Jim went through the packet to explain the information included:

- He explained the Next Generation Parish Progress Report and how it's broken down per priorities and the actions taken.
- Organ restoration fundraising project packet (St. Ferdinand organ repair will cost one million dollars and St. Gregory's organ repair will cost \$500.).
 - Side note: In addition to the organs, the St. Ferdinand rectory roof needs to be replaced.
- The packet also included flyers promoting the new videos, podcasts and events.
- Father Jim is scheduled to speak on October 7, 8, and 9 in preparation for the upcoming elections. To prepare for these seminars, he sought the council's advice on how based on the Catholic Church in the United States teachings can address the various aspects of living the faith and guide parishioners effectively. Following the discussion, Father Jim decided to organize a Mass or adoration after the elections to pray for the newly elected leader.

2. Parish Updates

- New Generation Parish updates covered by the document Father Jim shared with the council.
- Father Jim presented the annual report, covering sacramental information from July 1 through June 30. The report includes responsibilities of the clergy, such as administering last rites, communion, and occasionally Mass at various institutions. Social services, including outreach to the poor, the food bank, and counseling, were highlighted, as well as religious education, which served 606 children last year—with hopes to increase enrollment under the new director. Sacramental highlights include 118 baptisms, 160 funerals, 107 first communions, 84 confirmations, and a rise in marriages. Over the past two years, Father Jim has welcomed 43 adults into the Catholic faith, and he is seeing growing interest from non-Catholics.
- The Family Festival was a huge success. The net profit was \$224,000, which is \$20,000 more than last year. Dinners were all successful, booths were a success, food vendors broke records, the change in the set up was positive. The sponsorship increased. There is an opening for a chairperson for the sandwich booth. Father Jim was happy to see all the young families attend.
- Eucharistic Procession is scheduled on October 6th after the noon mass at St. Ferdinand. A second procession will be scheduled in the spring of 2025 at St. Gregory. Every ministry was asked to be part of the procession.



DIVINE GRACE PARISH

3. How is our parish progressing with the implementation of Adult Faith Formation opportunities? Should we continue offering a variety of topics or move to a themed approach?

- Faith formation is currently offered based on the individual clergy experience, some are responsive to a current event, and some is in relation to the Eucharistic revival. So, it has been a variety that may or may not change. Father Jim is open to suggestions for 2025 regarding a theme. The council agreed that a themed approach is easier and more consistent, but might not be ideal for everyone.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm with a closing prayer.