

St. Augustine Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
February 8, 2022

Council Members Present: Msgr. Mee, Deacon Allen Peterson, Debbie Battaglia, Laura Lucas, Terry Peterson, Carmen Piccolo, Teresa Reuter and Paul Stewart; Absent: Greg Repetti.

Meeting was called to order; Msgr. Mee led the council in prayer. November minutes were approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Sanctuary Update:

Planning for the sanctuary remodel is underway. Rationale for the project is to make the sanctuary less dangerous and easier to navigate all while having the focus on the altar, tabernacle and Crucifix. The parish has hired architect Ned Warnick to help with the design.

The plan is to move the sanctuary back about nine feet and use the space currently occupied by the day chapel. With an additional row of pews, there will be a net gain of about five feet – which will make the space much wider and allow for better traffic flow. Drawing the sanctuary back, and removing the partial wall, will also move the altar a few feet back and thus open up the view from one transept to the other. The tabernacle and original Marian altar will be moved to the back wall under the Crucifix.

There will be two steps up to the main sanctuary with one step up to an altar platform in the center of the sanctuary. There will be four steps up to the tabernacle. The current steps, with the dark colored marble, impact depth perception and make walking around the area hazardous. And the current steps are higher than standard steps and narrower.

The altar will be comprised of the centerpiece from the original church altar, with two panels of green marble on each side to coordinate with the Marian altar and the back wall. We may be able to use marble pieces from the original church altar rail.

Renderings will be presented to the parish at upcoming discussion meetings. It is the hope that we will be able to replace the old carpeting at the same time.

It is the hope the parish will receive a grant to help pay for the work, in addition to some large pledges from parishioners. The project is expected to take approximately two months and will commence this summer. While the work is being completed, Mass will still be in the church as contractors will tape off the area.

Cataldo: Last week was Catholic Schools Week. The school continues to remain open despite Covid. A few classes are closed here and there, but the school has done well managing the protocols. Cataldo has yet to hire a maintenance person. The parish council sees this as an issue as the parish is ultimately responsible for the school building. It was suggested that the council invite Principal Zack Cunningham to an upcoming meeting to answer any questions the council may have. Council members are asked to submit specific questions they may want answered to the parish office.

Lent: Lent begins the first week of March. The parish will have Stations of the Cross each Friday. Those in the RCIA program will go through the Scrutinies the Sundays of Lent. For Lent, Fr. Connall and Msgr. Mee will be discussing controversial topics and present the Church's stance in a video series/podcast called "The Lion and the Lamb." It should be educational – with a little entertainment tossed in.

Faith Formation: *RCIA* – A team of people led by Msgr. Mee is preparing the candidates to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass. *Religious Education* – The program is going well with several different volunteers leading each lesson. With the classes being held in the church, the children are learning about the stories within the baptistry, the stained-glass windows, and Catholic devotionals. *Sacramental Preparation* – Msgr. Mee is leading the program and using the parts of the Baltimore Catechism that addresses the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Holy Communion. The Baltimore Catechism was chosen because it is concrete and will be good for the children to learn as it provides a proper foundation of the Catholic faith. The simplicity of the program is as a good building block and should serve the children well.

Finances: The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal has wrapped up. The goal for the parish this year was \$79,874. The parish exceeded its goal with a collection of \$99,460. The overage will come back to the parish in a year. The parish has been very generous in supporting the ACA this year.

Parish Projects:

Pearson Hall was recently painted. New tables and chairs were purchased to replace the old and damaged ones. The Sunday afternoon basketball team donated much of the funds for this project.

Deacon Allen closed the meeting with a prayer. The next meeting will be March 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.