

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting

April 17, 2024

Present were:

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)
Michael Alexander
Matt Rice

Leanne Southerland
Marcel LeJeune
Donna Hanus

Samantha Shepard
Al Flores
Taylor Schroll

Absent:

Lorian Dusek
Lis Soto (Secretary)

Christina Robertson
Anna Damian

Fr. Roopesh (Vicar)

Opening Prayer was led by Father Brian Eilers 6:00 p.m.
Fr. Brian invited each person to share prayer intentions.

Pastoral update by Father Brian Eilers

Church Repairs

- The engineering report regarding the boards on the ceiling of the church was received.
- The repairs were then planned and started being prepped today (4/17/24).
- Repairs will be ongoing for the next week to a week and a half.
- We are still on track to be back in the church by May 1.

PAC Portico Repairs

- Repairs of the exterior entryway are underway and ongoing.
- Repairs should be completed this week.

Foundations

- Recently ended with 23 who completed.

Alpha

- 40-50 regular weekly attendees.

Confirmation

- 32 children and several RCIA adults are being confirmed.

VBS

- Over 80 already registered.
- The estimate is that there will be 150-200 kids in VBS this summer.

Youth Ministry

- The Parish is interviewing for a Faith Formation Leader.

- We are considering moving 6th grade to be with the 5th grade (instead of with the 7th and 8th) as sixth graders are at a different stage than many 7th and 8th graders.
- Plus, most school systems and parishes have 5th and 6th together and 7th and 8th together.

Family Faith Formation

- The families who have committed are consistent in attendance.
- The formation of parents, along with kids, so that the parents can be leaders of the domestic church, is going well.
- Some new families are also coming.

Date Night

- Next = May 19th.
- We need a cook team for the evening.

First Communions

- Next 2 weekends, 4/20 and 4/27.

Easter Weekend Door-to-Door Mission

- There were approximately 55 participants (missionaries) each day, Friday and Saturday.
- Several of the people/families who were visited have inquired about receiving various sacraments.

Masses at Christ the Good Shepherd (CGS)

- The screens are a plus.
 - (The left one is out, but is being repaired.)
- There was a *significant amount of discussion around the possibility of using CGS on a more regular basis*, particularly as:
 - Our parish's regular presence in that neighborhood is valuable.
 - We are close to, and sometimes over, capacity for the Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses at the church.
- There was additional discussion around the advantages of using CGS, including:
 - Having children's Liturgy of the Word.
 - Creating more room for parish growth and visitors.
 - Representing our church in the CGS neighborhood more regularly.
- There was discussion about more regular use of CGS during Christmas and Easter, including thoughts such as having all Holy Week masses at CGS.
- There was discussion about a long-term plan to possibly move one or two masses every weekend to CGS:
 - Complete deferred maintenance that would make CGS more functional and welcoming.
 - Fully socialize any regular weekend mass that is moved, including:
 - Advertising in all local parishes about any regular location change.
 - Changing all references on any/all websites, google, and google maps.
- No decisions about moving any masses were finalized.
- The council did agree that several months of advance planning and notice are required and that thoughtful consideration should be made regarding the history and tradition of the parish, our missional purpose, and our future growth in weekend mass attendance.

Radical Hospitality

- The council entered into a discussion regarding the question,
 - “Is it time for the Parish to start a new, Hospitality Ministry?”
- Included in the discussion were key elements of such a ministry, including:
 - Using the “charism inventory” from Foundations to help identify and invite ministry members and leaders.
 - Starting small.
 - Having a long-term plan, allowing the ministry to start small, but grow.
 - The positive impact such a ministry can have on all members of the parish.
 - Integrating the Hospitality Ministry with the Prayer Ministry.
 - St. Patrick’s in Hutto being a source of ideas.
 - The April [Divine Renovation: From the Trenches](#) video replay and materials as a source of ideas.
 - Prayerfully identifying 2-4 key leaders who would develop a multi-year plan to include:
 - Clarifying the ministry’s purpose
 - Starting Small
 - Using Ministry Scheduler Pro
 - Training of Hospitality Ministers
 - Being properly resourced
 - Having a primary contact or champion within the Parish staff
 - A “hospitality audit”
 - Visiting highly hospitable churches to identify best practices
 - Identify all the systems that need to be audited and considered regarding hospitality, e.g.:
 - Web site
 - A clear method to identify and follow up with guests
 - e.g., Sunday afternoon phone calls
 - Directional signage around the parish
 - Parking Attendants
 - well-informed, welcoming Welcome Attendants at all masses at all entrances
 - Brochures to help people find key ministries based on their stage of life and formation
 - Mass guides (esp. for non-Catholics)
 - and more
- The discussion ended with the answer,
 - “Yes, it is time for us to start praying about, looking for leaders to plan, and launching a Hospitality Ministry.”
- Fr. Brian asked all council members to pray about identifying the right small group of people to further envision, architect, and launch.

Closing Prayer led by Father Brian

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wed. 15, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Michael Alexander