

St. James Parish  
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes  
March 9, 2016

**Present:** Paul Stevens, Pat Buehler, Steve Choate, Kim Boho, Emelie Klein, Ellen Allen, Chris Lodl, Valerie Ehr

**Excused:** Mike Wendelberger, John Swanson, Julie Kramlich, Julie Kabitzke, Tom Zagorski, Father Mike, John Lehnen

**Special Guests:** Gerry Wolf, Sue Devine-Simon

- A. Started – 7:01PM
- B. Approval of Minutes- the February minutes were approved as submitted
- C. Opening Prayer
- D. Staff Update – Sue Devine-Simon – Director – Christian Formation – Adult & Family – Sue shared her background with the Council. She is a valued member of the staff covering several CF ministries. Sue has two requests of the Council – 1. During 2017 Budget Review, please see if we can add dollars for additional staff hours. 2. Keep open communications between Staff and Council. We all need to know and understand what each group is doing. Sue also mentioned that at the recent Stewardship Fair, 4 people signed up to be on the CF Committee.
- E. Pastor’s Report – Gerry filled in for Father Mike.
  - a. The archdiocese held a meeting of all priests and parish directors to discuss the crisis & challenge of the aging of the priest and the shortage of priests. They discussed how this was affecting each of them. The shortage is placing strain on everyone and is leading to priests to be over worked and not allowing them to form closer ties to their congregations. This is a huge issue that needs to be discussed and solutions found and soon!
  - b. The Stewardship Fair resulted in 55 new sign-ups. We need to look at ways of improving upon this year’s fair.
  - c. The Council/Staff Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. All Staff and Council members are asked to complete the survey that Gerry and Deacon Mike sent out. Please review your emails for the survey.
- F. Committee Reports - None
- G. Chair Report – None
- H. Co-Chair Report – None
- I. Old Business- Staff/Council Communication- Terri Weber along with Gerry Wolf reported on a discussion that staff had at staff meeting regarding ways to improve transparency and communication between the groups. Terri brought minutes from the most recent staff meeting and proposed sending the minutes out to council members as a method to allow council to understand topics that staff are discussing. Another strategy proposed would be to rotate having a staff member attend council meetings on a rotating basis to provide updates. The council agreed that this is a great idea and it will be implemented with next meeting.
- J. New Business –
  - a. Holy Thursday – Council members will again participate in the dressing of the alter and the bringing up the gifts during the Holy Thursday Mass. Kim has the signup sheet. Members should contact Kim to sign up if they did not do so during the meeting. Kim will be performing the first “Washing of the Feet” during mass.
  - b. Summer Mass Schedule Survey – Discussion was had regarding the survey as well as if eliminating a mass was the best approach to take in light of continued decline in mass attendance throughout the year. Further discussion needs to be had on this topic.
  - c. Evangelization – We need to improve in our parish. We need to reach out to those people who have left our parish. We need to determine why.
- K. Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession
- L. **Next meeting – Wednesday April 13th**
- M. Adjournment - at 8:35PM

Minutes submitted by Steve Choate