

St James
Pastoral Council Minutes
February 14, 2018

Call to Order: Chair, Pat Buehler, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Present: Dcn. Sandy Sites, Terry Brecklin, Pat Buehler, Joe Gonzalez, Ray Gross, Matt Hoffa, Tim Khoury, Jill Lehnen, David Topp, John Walker.

Excused: Ellie Allen, Paul Stevens.

Gospel Reading and Reflection

Jill Lehnen read a reflection about understanding God's mercy through the experiences of a parent. She spoke about her own experiences as a parent to help us connect with the following passage from the article:

“Those of us who are parents are blessed to get a glimpse of the heart of God in this area. When my children have approached me truly sorry for what they have done wrong, my fatherly heart melts with love for them. If I want good things for my children, how much more the Father longs for good, pure hearts for us.”

The entire reflection can be found at <http://www.mycatholic.com/reflections/2018-045.html>

Approval of Minutes.

Minutes were approved prior to the meeting via the email approval process.

Message from the Chair – Pat Buehler

- **Retreat.** Pat thanked those who attended the February 8th retreat and asked members to give feedback to Gerry Wolf about the day. If you did not attend, see Gerry's February 10th email with attachments.
- **Vice-chair.** We are in need of a vice-chair for the Pastoral Council. Please prayerfully consider stepping into this role. The main responsibilities entail filling in for Pat if he is unable to MC the opening to All Committee Night or facilitate the monthly Council meeting. We will name a vice-chair at the March meeting.
- **Member Photos.** Tim Khoury will take photos for the picture board before the March 14th Pastoral Council Meeting. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early.

Parish Director's Report - Dcn. Sandy Sites

- **Finance Chair.** Joe Gonzalez has been named Chair of the Finance Council. Congratulations, Joe!
- **Lenten Focus.** The Lenten theme is *A Journey of the Heart, Become the Light*. The word, journey, invites us to be in a richer spiritual place come Easter Sunday. When we become the light, our spirituality leads to action. Take a Leap of Faith card from the altar to inspire your actions.
- **Sunday Summer Mass Schedule.** During June, July and August, weekend masses will be held on Saturday at 4:30 PM and Sunday at 9:00 AM. The 9:00 start was the preferred time selected by those who responded to the 2016 parish survey. The goal of the compacted schedule is to maintain vibrancy during the summer months when attendance is typically lower. The regular Sunday morning mass schedule will resume in September.
- **Lighting Update.** LED light bulbs and replacement carpeting and upholstery have been ordered. Parishioners have stepped forward to help with the expense of replacing the lights. To date, a \$10,000 donation and additional smaller donations have been received. Hopefully, the project will be completed by Easter Sunday.

- **Archdiocesan Meetings.** A Multi-Parish Institute will be held in September and December 2018 and January 2019. St. James and Good Shepherd will each send six representatives to the institute. Another event, Amazing Parishes, will be held on October 6, 2018. Six people will represent St. James at this meeting. Sandy will select representatives for both events. Please let him know if you wish to be considered.
- **Future Retreats.** Shared parish council/staff retreats are being planned for Fall 2018/Spring 2019. The first event will be held in August or September. It will be a Saturday evening Mass, followed by fellowship to introduce the two groups. Be sure to respond to an upcoming email survey about preferred dates. The other two retreats will be scheduled during Advent and Lent. St. James and Good Shepherd will alternate planning and hosting responsibilities. The intent of the retreats is to support continuous improvement efforts in each parish.
- **Proposals.** Two proposals will be presented to the council next month, one for a Relevant Radio liaison and another for the Ballpark Day of Faith. The Pastoral Council will make recommendations to approve or reject the proposals.

Finance Council Report – Joe Gonzalez, Finance Council Liaison

- **Finance Council Officers.** Joe announced new Finance Council officers. Gerard Iwinski will serve as co-chair; the secretary is David Hart
- **Lighting Expenses.** We will not have to tap into any non-designated funds or savings to cover the cost of replacing the halogen lights with LED bulbs.
- **Legacy Fund.** Documents are under legal review.

Preliminary Discussion of 5:30 PM Sunday Mass – Pat Buehler

- **Overview.** Attendance is low and vibrancy is often weak at the 5:30 pm Sunday Mass. Furthermore, it is stretching our available resources (priests, acolytes, readers, music ministers).
- **Ad Hoc Committee.** An ad hoc committee, consisting of Jill Lehnen, Tim Khoury, Matt Hoffa and David Topp will gather additional information from the Christian Formation and Prayer & Liturgy Committees regarding the viability of the mass. They will present their findings and preliminary recommendations on March 14th. At that meeting, the entire Pastoral Council will make a recommendation to Deacon Sandy on whether to retain or omit the Sunday evening mass.
- **Impact on CF Curriculum.** The status of the 5:30 mass will not affect the CF curriculum which includes fostering an understanding and appreciation of the mass.

Other:

Tim Khoury volunteered to select a reading for the March meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Brecklin

Secretary

Mission Statement

St. James is a vibrant, welcoming Catholic Community journeying towards the fullness of the Kingdom of God through worship, formation and service.