

St James Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 10, 2018

Call to Order: Chair, Pat Buehler, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

Excused: Matthew Lehner

Prayer and Scripture.

Pat Buehler offered the opening prayer and read John 2, The Wedding at Cana. In this passage, Mary asked Jesus for help and then directed the servants to “Do whatever He tells you.” This scene serves as a reminder that we can lay our problems at Jesus’ feet and trust that he will come through for us.

Approval of Minutes.

The September minutes were approved via the email approval process. Minutes are posted on the parish website.

Message from the Chair – Pat Buehler

- All parish members are welcome to observe Pastoral Council meetings. However, any parishioner who wishes to address the council must request to be placed on the agenda ahead of time. An announcement will be placed in the bulletin to remind all parishioners of this practice.

Finance Council Liaison Report- John Walker

- There are three new members on the Finance Council.
- Finance Council members enjoyed meeting their counterparts at Good Shepherd in September.
- Building and Grounds will name a liaison to the Finance Council.
- The parish has received two donations. One will fund technology improvements to the worship space; the other will fund an automatic door opener on the Christian Formation side of the building.
- The Finance Council will continue to move forward with the 3-5-7-year financial plan. Dcn. Sandy said the plan was submitted to the Archdiocese on October 10.

Parish Director’s Report - Deacon Sandy Sites

- Deacon Mike is doing well and is feeling much better.
- **Parish Leadership Meet-and-Greet.** The September 22 event hosted by Good Shepherd was well-received and fostered relationship building and mutual support between the two groups. Specific ideas worth remembering included the practice of monthly Pastoral Council updates before the Liturgy and the format used at the GS Townhall meetings. The next meeting, a Lenten retreat, will be hosted by St. James. A Saturday date in early March will be selected for the event.
- **Altar Railing.** Plans are underway to install a single railing at the center of the altar. Dcn Sandy made the decision based on his observations of presiders, parishioners and guests who struggle with the stairs, as well as on requests received from parishioners who would like to participate as lectors, acolytes and distributors but have difficulty with extra walking and navigating stairs. The railing will blend into the existing décor and will be removable should unforeseen circumstances require it. The railing will be ADA compliant and will be approved by our insurance company before installation begins. The project will be funded by a donation specifically earmarked for this purpose.
- **Listening Sessions.** Council members were reminded to check their email containing information about the Listening Sessions on September 23 and September 26. There are two documents for each session because two scribes were present at each meeting. Copies will be provided to any parishioner

who contacts the parish office. To date, two parishioners have asked for and received copies of the documents. Copies have been sent to appropriate persons at the Archdiocese. The documents will not be posted on the website because they are best understood within the context of St. James parish and the meeting.

- **Town Hall Meeting** – The annual Town Hall Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 21 at 11:30 and Monday, October 22 at 6:00 pm. A copy of the budget was emailed to council members.

New Business

- **Focus Areas.** The council discussed ways to present the Pastoral Council Focus Areas to the parish committees and decided on the following approach:
 - We will ask each committee to include the Focus Areas as a topic on their November agenda and for the next 6 months.
 - Pat Buehler will introduce the Focus Areas at the November All-Committee Night. He will ask each committee and their liaison to discuss the document and record the discussion highlights in their meeting minutes.
 - The Focus Areas will be an on-going Pastoral Council agenda item for the next six months.
- **Homework on Disability Awareness.** Pat Buehler asked council members to think about what disability awareness means with regards to the function of our parish and the different gifts people have to offer. He asked members to bring ideas about how we might be more inclusive to the November meeting.

Other

- **Mission Statement Challenge.** Dcn. Sandy challenged council members to commit the parish mission statement to memory. A prize awaits the first member to meet the challenge.

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

- **Opening Prayer and Scripture Readings.** November- Gonzalez; December-Hoffa; January-Khoury; February-Lehnen; March-Topp; April-Walker; May - Kovalski; June – Brecklin

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Brecklin

Secretary