

St. James Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes - November 14, 2018

Call to Order

Chair, Pat Buehler, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Deacon Sandy Sites, Pat Buehler, Terry Brecklin, Ray Gross, Jose Gonzalez, Matt Hoffa, Jill Lehnen, Lisa Kovalski, Tim Khoury, David Topp. **Excused:** Matt Lehner

Opening Prayer

Joe Gonzalez shared a prayer that grounds him in his spiritual growth. Thank you, Joe.

Amazing Parishes

Conference Report. Deacon Sandy, Teri Weber, Gerry Wolf, Sharon Ellis and Bill Latus attended the Amazing Parishes Conference, a national conference which was held in Milwaukee from October 17-19, 2018. The 5 of them comprise the Good Shepherd/St. James Parish Leadership Team (PLT) related to the Conference. The conference focused on giving parish leaders and teams the tools they need to build stronger parishes. Each team will support its pastor or parish director providing insight and consultation as needed. This new PLT will not compete with PC, FC, or staff, who will continue in their leadership roles as is. Archbishop ListECKI and other leaders in the Archdiocese attended the conference along with representatives from every parish in the Archdiocese. The audience of approximately 1,200 was comprised of both lay and clergy leaders.

More Information. Video presentations can be found at <https://amazingparish.org/aponline/>
Updates on the work with Amazing Parishes will be a monthly agenda item for the Council.

Message from the Chair – Pat Buehler

Parish Council Visibility. Parish members need to better know who their Pastoral Council members are. To that end, Pat Buehler proposed that council members serve as greeters one weekend per month and rotate so that we serve as greeters at masses we usually don't attend. He encouraged members to volunteer at Holly Days and to wear their name tags.

Focus Areas. The Focus Areas were well-received by those in attendance at All Committee Night. The Focus Areas— Stewardship and Discipleship-- prompted productive conversations within each committee. Council members agree that the Focus Areas are a useful tool for validating, inspiring and guiding the work of each committee, similar to the way a compass guides one toward true North.

Sunday Evening Mass. The 5:30 pm mass attracts all age groups. Currently, about 200 people attend on Sunday evening. Overall, total weekend mass attendance is holding steady. One challenge is to encourage more music participation from those in the pews without discouraging the attendance of those who prefer to worship quietly. Another challenge, as it is with all masses, is to encourage people to move forward and into the center sections.

Finance Council Update – John Walker

Welcome to the Neighborhood. Finance Council is evaluating the effectiveness of an outreach to prospective new members. The Welcome to the Neighborhood pilot project involves using a third party to mine data and send postcards to new area residents.

Technology. In order to improve the sound quality in the worship space, the Finance Council approved the purchase of three wireless microphones to replace older mics. The Finance Council is investigating the possibility of using a Smartphone app as a communication tool.

Stewardship. Commitment cards were mailed to parishioners last week. Parishioners are asked to return the cards before December 31, 2018

Altar Railing. Details of the installation are being finalized.

Parish Director's Report – Deacon Sandy

Mission Statement Challenge. Cheers to Pat Buehler and Tim Khoury for successfully taking on the challenge to memorize the St. James Mission Statement. All members will attempt the challenge in unison at the December

meeting.

Pre-Mass Presentations. Once a month, beginning in January, council members will update the parish on the work of the Pastoral Council. Members will share the responsibility across the four masses. We will decide on the content of the announcement at our monthly meeting.

Advent Theme. The Advent theme will build upon the journey theme used in Lent. The theme is *Advent: Prepare the Way to Justice and Peace*. St. James and Good Shepherd will use the same theme, though each parish will use it as best fits each parish.

Save March 23. The Lenten day of reflection for Parish Leaders from St. James and Good Shepherd will be held at St. James on Saturday, March 23 from 8 am to 3 pm. A professional retreat facilitator will lead the group.

Upcoming Archdiocesan Meetings:

- Parish Councils Congress - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 8 am to 12:30 pm at the Cousins Center. Attendees: Pastoral Council and Finance Council Chairs, one trustee and the Parish Director.
- Multi-parish Institute - Tuesdays, February 12, March 26 and May 14, 10 am to 3 pm. Attendees: 12 representatives from St. James and Good Shepherd, two from in each area: leadership & organization evangelization & faith formation, worship, human concerns, stewardship, and finances & facilities.

Disability Awareness

Human Concerns has established a Disabilities Awareness subcommittee. Pastoral Council members asked for specific ideas about the direction Disability Awareness in our parish might take. Human Concerns Liaison, Dave Topp, will keep the council abreast of the work of the Disabilities Awareness subcommittee.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Dave Topp led us in intercessory prayer. Over the coming weeks, please remember our council members and their requests in your prayers. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Reminder:

Opening Prayer Schedule: December-Hoffa; January-Khoury; February-Lehnen; March-Topp; April-Walker; May - Kovalski; June - Brecklin

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