

Pastoral Council Minutes – April 10, 2019

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Pat Buehler called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Terry Brecklin led the opening prayer.

Present: Dcn. Sandy Sites, Pat Buehler, David Topp, Joe Gonzalez, Terry Brecklin, Matt Hoffa, Lisa Kovaleski, John Walker, Matthew Lehner, Tim Khoury, Jill Lehnen,

Excused: Ray Gross

Approval of Minutes: The March minutes were approved prior to the meeting via the email approval process.

Chair Report – Pat Buehler.

- **St. James Patronal Feast.** Barb Schuelke spoke about the history of the St. James Patronal Feast (Mass on the Grass and parish picnic) and the challenge of finding help to set up an outdoor mass. She proposed holding the mass indoors. The council will discuss this proposal at the next meeting.
- **Monthly Pre-Mass Presentations.** The Finance Council will deliver the April Monthly Pre-Mass Presentation
- **Holy Thursday** – Council members who are attending the Holy Thursday mass were encouraged to sign-up to assist with the presentation of gifts. Tim Khoury will send the sign-up sheet to Sue Mangan.
- **Pastoral Council Membership Recruitment.** The annual recruitment announcement for new Pastoral Council members will run in the bulletin beginning on April 27-28. We will also recruit members during the Pastoral Council Pre-Mass presentation in May. Pat Buehler will step down as chair in June. He asked members to consider taking a leadership role on the council. Elections of officers will take place in September 2019.
- **Prayerful Pre-Mass Atmosphere.** Conversations between parishioners can be very distracting for those who wish to engage in silent prayer before mass. It would be ideal if parishioners would be maintain a “library level” volume during private conversations before mass. The Blessed Sacrament chapel is an option for those seeking silence.

Finance Council Update - John Walker

- John Walker and Alyssa Rimm are working with Dcn. Sandy and Terri Weber on strengthening the 3-5-7- year strategic plan. It will include details to enhance previously-established goals, as well as cyclical updates.
- Work on the budget continues and a review of line items is underway. There will be a stand-alone Finance Council meeting in May which will focus specifically on the budget.
- Facebook ads are being considered. The ads are relatively inexpensive and can be used to promote specific events, as well as target specific geographic areas and demographic groups.
- The Legacy Fund legal documents are being finalized and plans are being made to introduce the concept to parishioners through announcements and planning workshops.

Parish Director's Report – Deacon Sandy Sites

- **Archdiocesan Assessments.** The parish is up-to-date on the current archdiocesan assessment but has outstanding obligations from previous years. There is a payment plan in place to eliminate the aging debt.
- **Summer Mass Schedule.** As last summer, the weekend schedule will be Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am.
- **Sunday Evening Mass.** Dcn. Sandy announced that, after considering a variety of factors, he has decided it is best for the parish in the long term to go to a three-mass schedule. He will announce this decision on last Sunday of April and there will be announcements in the bulletin. The last Sunday Evening mass will be held on May 26.
- **Grand Celebration for Deacon Mike.** There will be a Celebration of Life for Deacon Mike on Sunday, June 23 at 3:00 pm. Fr. Dick Robinson will be the presider. Deacon Mike will serve as the deacon for the mass and will deliver the homily. Mass will be followed by a gathering in the community center. Invitations will be extended to St. James Parish, the Cooperating Churches of Sussex, and the deacon community.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

- David Topp led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

Reminder

Opening Prayer Schedule: May - Kovaleski; June - Brecklin

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