

Date: 11/14/23

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: AMR

Present Members: Amelia Reesor, Tonja Logsdon, Erin Hartman, Jerry Passafiume, and Maranda Sandefer

Present Staff: Father Robert, Robert Garbarz, and Flynn Mudd

Absent: Nathan Hadsall, Karen O'Rourke, Jake Kerger and Laura Ridge

### Opening Prayer

- Updates on Safety Committee
  - There was a question on if we had implemented the policy of locking the church doors during mass. Father Robert explained that we are locking the doors but are still in the transition period so not everyone has been informed of the new policy yet. The trial period is wrapping up now and Jake is finalizing a new communication that will be going out soon.
  - There was a follow-up question on why this policy was being implemented in the first place – was there some precipitating event? Father Robert explained that it was prompted by the guidelines of the Archdiocese's insurance policy, which recommends that church doors be locked after Mass begins.
- Ordering ordos, lectionaries & ???
  - Flynn has ordered everything and all items have been delivered to the parish.
  - Lectors will be able to pick up the new handbooks at Masses beginning next weekend. Erin will email lectors to let them know about pick-up.
- Reflection on and improvements for All Souls
  - We reviewed Patrick's notes on All Souls – see notes attached on page 5.
    - On the tulip bulbs – the committee was curious if parishioners had expressed missing the bulbs to Patrick? None of the other staff received any comments or questions about the bulbs. There was a discussion on how invested the parishioners are in the bulbs and if it's a tradition worth continuing if parishioners are not very invested.
    - On the video stream – Robert said they will find a designated person for future All Souls to at a minimum start and stop the stream so that task can be taken be off Patrick's plate.
    - On having families that are lighting multiple candles go back to back – it was noted that the staff will need to collect more details on who is making requests to light candles for family members so that this can be arranged.
    - On the Tabernacle Veil – Flynn will start putting notes in the Bulletin to explain traditions like veiling, so that parishioners can be prepared before they see these traditions in action.

- The committee was not certain what was meant by comments 3a and 3b (Mass – Music & Readings), so no one was exactly sure how to address them. We would appreciate clarification from Patrick so that we can address the comments more directly.
  - It is okay that no extraordinary ministers were utilized at All Souls Mass.
  - On invitations to families, Father Robert noted that we don't want it to feel like we are pressuring families to attend. We think one invitation is sufficient for folks to know they are welcome at Ascension.
  - The committee agreed keeping All Souls Mass at 7 PM is best for consistency with the rest of our Feast Days' schedules.
  - Flynn really liked how the memorial table was set up this year.
  - Father Robert appreciates all the ways that the All Souls Mass engages the families who lost family members in the past year. However, he wants to make sure that we don't give the appearance that All Souls is exclusively for those who have died in the past year and that the Mass is meant to remember all of the dead.
- Advent planning, music & decorating
  - Robert is going to reach out to Father Adam to ask if he would be able to make us candles for this year's Advent wreath. If Father Adam is able to, Erin will pick them up on her way home from work. If he is not, Maranda will order them.
    - Not related to Advent, but on the subject of Father Adam, Robert will also inquire if Father Adam would like the catafalque he had made. If he does want it, Maranda will arrange transporting it to him. If he does not, the Committee will brainstorm other possible things to do with it (Flynn believes St. John's may be interested in it). We would benefit from having the additional storage space.
  - Maranda will set up the Advent wreath and flags on December 1<sup>st</sup> before 2 PM, when First Friday adoration begins. If it's possible, only purple flags will be put up for the start of Advent and one of the purple flags will be replaced with pink for the Third Sunday of Advent immediately prior to the weekend. If that is the case, the pink flag will be put up on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Maranda will put up the Nativity scene on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. This is because the first three Sundays of Advent are focused on the Second Coming of Christ and it is not until the Fourth Sunday of Advent that the readings begin to focus on Christ's first coming.
  - Robert is all set on music for the Advent season.
- Christmas planning, music & decorating
  - The Christmas trees will be set up on December 17<sup>th</sup> after the Third Sunday of Advent, but the lights will stay off until Christmas.
  - Flynn and Robert are going to be in charge of all candle set-up for Christmas and Feast Days. It was decided that the candelabras that are usually set next to the Tabernacle at Christmas time can be set up for all Feast Days.

- Maranda is placing the order for poinsettias. She will order extra this year so that we can set up around the baptismal font, in front of the ambo, and in front of the altar. If there are enough, some flowers may also be set in front of the Mary statue or the Holy Family statues.
- Maranda will put out the pew covers, candelabras on the pews, wreaths, Christmas flags, and poinsettias on December 22<sup>nd</sup> since these don't take much time to set up at all.
- The Christmas Mass Schedule is:
  - Fourth Sunday of Advent – Saturday at 4:00 PM, Sunday at 9:30 AM
  - Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM
  - Christmas at 9:00 AM
  - The schedule will start being posted in the bulletin with the First Sunday of Advent to give everyone plenty of time to prepare.
- Next Student led Mass
  - January 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> was proposed since this is the next weekend for sports blessings, but there was concern that this would be too difficult to organize since the school will still be on winter break.
  - It was decided to postpone any plans for the next student-led Mass for the time being.
- All Committee member appreciation gathering (this was held last year and coordinated by parish office)
  - There will not be any event this December, but potentially something will be planned for later in 2024 – perhaps in February for Fat Tuesday?
- Updated Ministry Guides – Flynn
  - The updated guides are prepared and Father Robert has approved of one so far. Father Robert and Flynn will review the rest in advance of our next meeting with the hope that the Committee can approve the updated guides at that time.
- Other Announcements/Topics of Discussion
  - Social Media – we believe that not everyone has realized that there are now two social media pages for Ascension, one for the parish and one for the school. Katie and Laura may be able to give us a better idea on the audiences for both pages. We discussed making some separate announcements to remind parishioners to follow us on social media on the new page and also to give to Suzie Thomas to include in the lowdown email to school parents as well.
  - We will be starting Second Collections that will be passed around immediately after the normal collection. This will only happen a handful of times a year for specific ones like Crusade for Children, Opportunities for Life, Retired Religious, etc. These Second Collections will be announced in advance.
  - Father Robert proposed the idea of a communal prayer/rosary opportunity, specifically a walking rosary through the neighborhood as this might encourage families to participate. Flynn suggested that we could also carry a Mary statue on the procession. Robert and Flynn will convene with the team that planned

the Corpus Christi procession to plan this. It was decided that this would be good as a vigil event for the Immaculate Conception on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.

Closing Blessing

Next Meeting: 12/12/23 6:30 PM

### 1. Noted Mistakes

- a. Bulbs not present at all. Patrick should continue to improve his communication and delegation style.
- b. Stream - Patrick started after reading. Missed a few names. Hard to remember without a designated minister.

### 2. Candle Lighting Ritual

- a. Instrumental Music with Violin - Powerful / emotional way to start
- b. Reading of the song, "Light a Candle" – paced well
- c. Individual Names and big candle holders
  - i. Candle Tree holder - was found but could not hold 26 candles, or large candles.
    - 1. Including it at some capacity would be nice if it can't be used during.
      - a. Consider placing in the gathering space to hang the pictures on.
  - ii. Nursing Home Residents - A positive addition, finding ways to highlight our relationship to them when lighting candles could be helpful for context.
    - 1. Possibly get Extraordinary Ministers to take one person each.
    - 2. Possibly reach out to Louisville East for family contact info.
  - iii. Families – Was received positively as more inclusive
    - 1. If a family is lighting two candles, have them back to back to save trips.
  - iv. Audio - Levels were a bit off, could have had Father louder, or the music quieter.
  - v. Reader of Names - More meaningful with Father reading them
- d. Open Opportunity for everyone to light small candles
  - i. Lighting went well with two ministers assisting and Dcn. Placing. Only have of the attendees participated in this.
- e. General
  - i. Ministers - Distribution of roles was positive (clergy, staff, liturgical ministers)
  - ii. A&E – Dimming and removal of flowers was a nice touch. Simplicity welcomed.
    - 1. Tabernacle Veil -The veil was asked about, opportunity for catechesis?

### 3. Mass

- a. Music – Consider less popular selections to provide comfort, but prevent repetitive year
- b. Readings – Try to be sensitive to the families present. (if not already)
- c. Ministers – no extraordinary ministers were utilized. Is this okay?
- d. Attendance - surprisingly low. Average 60-70 in past three years and this year was 45ish.
  - i. Invitations - Families were notified electronically this year as opposed to the last two. A reintroduction of handwritten cards could help make up the difference.
    - 1. Does signature matter to the receiver if we had multiple card-makers?
    - 2. Would a follow up phone call be helpful?
    - 3. Could bereavement teams be particularly invited for Mass attendance?
  - ii. Day and Time - All Souls constantly changes for the day of the week. Was 7 PM too late on a Thursday evening? It's this late for sunlight. Sunset was 6:42 this year. Daylight savings will benefit an earlier time some years.
- e. Worship Aid
  - i. Asterisk to indicate Louisville East residents. Order them in order of death if possible. (some Louisville East residents' obituaries could be hard to find)

### 4. November Memorial Table – None so far