

11/28/2023 Pastoral Council Meeting

Present: Fr. Robert Barnell, Cindy Robinson, Debbie White, Patrick Parris, Jake Kerger, Aaron Thompson, Dan Young, Kate Brockman, Katie Early, Karen O'Rourke, Terry Mulaney, Special Guest Tony Forns

Absent: Abby Simon, Bryan Back, Teague Ridge, Laura Ridge

Fr. Robert opened the meeting at 7:00 with prayer.

The Council approved the minutes from the October meeting.

Pastor's Update: IGiveCatholic – as of 7 p.m. tonight, Ascension Parish is in first place so far raising \$23,985. He will ask Katie about an additional push before IGiveCatholic ends.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary actually begins on the vigil. To be united in prayer we will process around the block praying the Rosary on Thursday December 7 at 5 p.m. weather permitting. If the weather is rainy, we will pray inside.

Fr. Robert introduced Tony Forns as the new Chief of the Building & Grounds Committee. Dennis Jones is still on the committee. Someone from the Building & Grounds Committee will attend the Pastoral Council Meetings.

Tony reported the outside of the school and church is painted. Nine volunteers painted the Gathering Space this past Monday.

There will be a Building & Grounds Meeting Monday December 11 at 5:30. They welcome anyone from the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to attend.

- Pat Murphy will go over the rain gutters, and the options available. The gutters are rusted through because they were not installed correctly. The gutters are under the roof so in a heavy rain, the water runs over the gutters instead of into the gutters. The current gutters are only 4-5 inches, Building & Grounds recommend replacing with 6-7 inch gutters and larger downspouts. This will be open for discussion.
- Roof maintenance program.
- If there is enough time, discuss what to do about the exterior gym walls. The walls are holding moisture. This is the reason those walls were not painted. Last year during the rainy season, after about a week, the moisture level in the block registered 86%.

- Remove the dead oak tree outside of the Parish Office before it falls. Bob Feger is trying to get a wintertime price for removal.
- Most of the landscaping is in, there is still some clean-up around the sides. This is a small project.
- The leaks in the gymnasium ceiling are fixed, now the ceiling needs to be cleaned up with a stain block and paint. Tony passed out a list of 25 items on their project list. Some of the items will not cost much and can be taken care of in-house, but others cannot.

Fr. Robert clarified the Mass times for the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Saturday December 23 Vigil will be at 4, Sunday December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent there will only be one Mass at 9:30. Christmas Eve Masses will be at 4 & 7, Christmas Morning Mass will be at 9. This will all be published in the bulletin.

Fr. Robert will hear confessions Friday at noon in addition to Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. There will be Regional Confession at St. Gabriel on Sunday December 10 at 2 p.m.

Fr. Robert will be on vacation the third week of January. He said at the next meeting, he wants to discuss moving the Pastoral Council meeting to maybe Wednesday or Thursday. Sometimes there are a lot of meetings happening on Tuesdays.

Staffing Update: Dennis Jones' position of Director of Physical Stewardship has not been filled. The new position is different than the one Dennis had. Tony Forns reported there have been several applicants, but no one he would hire. Right now, Building and Grounds has the vision of what needs to be done, so that part of Dennis' position is taken care of. There are several volunteers that are helping, so why not wait for a while to find a replacement.

There is an issue with the flooring people, they are doing a horrible job. They clean up one mess and create another. Looking to replace them.

There is a company that comes in and cleans in the evening. They seem to be doing a good job. It is as expensive to hire one person with benefits as it is to have a company come in and do the work.

School Update: Terry Mulaney said to look in the bulletin or the School Lowdown for a school update. Test scores are up and good.

The major topic is bullying. There are three levels to bullying: mean students (level 1) it is addressed and it stops. If it doesn't stop, it progresses to level 2 and if it continues the bullying will reach level 3 which has a physical piece to it. In his eleven years, we've

never had a level 2 or 3 bully. He said every school has mean students. He did say when there is a level 1 bully he needs the parents' support so they can be united in dealing with the issues.

Terry held 3 parent meetings which lasted about 3 hours each, answered questions, and met with parents individually.

Writing curriculum will take some time to get up and running. Right now, Ascension is the front runner on this issue.

Terry said there were 16 families that came to the Open House. He has 3 more tours before Christmas.

Teacher enthusiasm is high, numbers in JK and K are good.

Looking for a Counselor for next year.

Finance Committee: Aaron Thompson sent the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes via email. He wanted to clarify on the concern regarding one of the vendors who is a parishioner. There were questions regarding reimbursed expenses. All of the expenses were reviewed and Ascension is getting quite the deal.

PTO: Adrian Bates, PTO Secretary, emailed the following to Cindy Robinson. Trivia Night was a success; they raised approximately \$6,000.

Since Dennis Jones left, there is no inventory protocol for beer. All of the beer order was charged to Trivia Night, whereas beer was sold at multiple events. The PTO needs help solving this issue.

Cookies with Santa is this Sunday, December 3 after the 10:30 Mass. There is no charge this year. Pictures will be taken and e-mailed.

Taste of Ascension is February 3 and will be Sock Hop themed. Tickets are on sale now.

All PTO Board positions for the 2024-2025 school year are posted on the PTO Facebook page, Lowdown and PTO website. Spread the word for people who are looking to get involved.

School Board: reviewed the minutes submitted online.

Athletic Board: reviewed the minutes submitted online.

Worship: Karen O'Rourke reported on the minutes.

The doors are being locked after Mass starts. This is in accordance with the Archdiocese guidelines for all parishes.

All Souls Mass, attendance was down from prior years, discussed video streaming, candles etc.

Advent planning, overlap of 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Miranda is in charge of decorating the church. Discussed 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Mass times.

Next School-led Mass potentially Jan 6/7. This may be too soon.

Discussed 2nd collections.

Discerning between 2 social media accounts.

Pastoral Report: Patrick Parris there is no report from Staff since the meeting moved to Thursday.

The Remembrance Table will come down at the end of November.

Ascension is overseeing the care for senior residents at The Spring House, which is a senior living, assisted living, nursing home and memory care unit on Bluegrass Parkway. It used to be St. Edward's responsibility. St. Edward is helping St. Michael, so Ascension is helping St. Edward. They plan to stream one of our Masses.

Help facilitate the By-Laws for mission thought and policy making.

Patrick will reach out to Abby Simon regarding the beer issue.

Pictorial Directory – 11 slots left for December 5 which was an added date.
Overwhelming response.

Revisit moving the Pastoral Council Meeting to Thursday at the January meeting.

Next Meeting January 30.

Fr. Robert closed the meeting at 8:30 with prayer and prayer requests.