

3/19/2024 Pastoral Council Minutes

In attendance: Fr. Robert Barnell, Cindy Robinson, Patrick Parris, Karen O'Rourke, Jake Kerger, Aaron Thompson, Kate Brockman, Abby Simon, Bryan Back, Tony Forns, Debbie White

Absent: Katie Earley, Dan Young, Teague Ridge

Meeting opened with prayer from Fr. Robert at 7:04 p.m.

Cindy will send February meeting minutes via e-mail for approval.

Abby Simon introduced Jordan Eblen who will be the PTO Chair for the next school year. Jordan has a daughter in the 3 year old program and a son in the first grade at Ascension. He works for Churchill Downs.

Pastor's Update: There hasn't been a Stewardship Drive since 2020. This year the drive will be split into two different times. The stewardship treasure portion is already in the mail, the time and talent portion will go out later in the summer. It is being split up in order to have a better idea of the financial commitment of the parish for budgeting purposes. The Pastoral Council discussed the timing of the drive for next year to make sure the talent information is received in time for picnic volunteers.

On April 6 and 7, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Archdioceses Vocations Director and a seminarian, who will be ordained in June, will be guest speakers. Flynn Mudd arranged this.

The next student led Mass is April 21 at the 10:30 Mass. The Easter Egg Hunt will follow. This is the fourth Sunday of Easter. The Easter season is 50 days long.

The Marian Procession and crowning of Mary will be May 12 after the 10:30 Mass. This is the Feast of The Ascension and Mother's Day. Since it is the weekend after their First Holy Communion, the second graders can wear their First Communion outfits.

The Volunteer Appreciation Pot Luck Dinner will be Wednesday, August 28. This is a fun event. Parishioners will supply the sides and desserts. More details to come.

Fr. Robert spoke of Safe Environment training. Everyone who works with children, at all, will need to attend an in-person training and have a background check. Ascension pays for the background check. Every five years there is an online one hour training update, and another background check is required. The parish pays for the background check. This is especially critical for athletic coaches.

Department and Committee Reports:

Athletics Committee: No report

Building and Grounds Committee (BG): Tony reported that all of the outside building doors have larger numbers installed for easier visibility.

The Green Award banner was hung outside and a new Blue Ribbon banner was replaced in time for the Open House.

Bids have been received, approved, and awarded for all of the iGiveCatholic funds. Contractors will begin on April 1 continue through Spring Break. They will install updated and upgraded exterior IP cameras (which are state of the art) and replace the main DVR. They will install 3M safety film, which enables the glass to be somewhat bullet proof and slow an intruder, to all the main school areas, to the school office, gym doors, all of the cafeteria, interior door windows, and anywhere the school building

can be breached. There was not enough money to do the classrooms and the AMR, but that will be done next time.

Bob Feger met with LG&E and all outdoor lights are converting to LEDs. Once that is done, he will make sure that all areas are covered and we may need to add additional lights.

Next week BG will replace the defective structural items on the playground. Even though the warranty expired, the manufacturer agreed to replace these items under warranty. BG needs 10-15 parent volunteers to help on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons starting around 3:30.

BG is also working on the landscaping around church. They received a proposal for work to be done in July so the cost is in next year's budget.

The ceiling cracks over the altar and in the corner of the sacristy will be fixed the week of April 1-5. Mike Steilberg of H. F. Steilberg Painting Contractors will bring in scaffolding to patch and paint the ceilings. The contractor will also replace the speaker covers. The work should be completed in time for the weekend Masses. Daily Mass will be moved to the AMR.

Tony asks if you see something concerning BG that needs attention say something to him.

Finance Committee: Aaron reported at their last meeting they discussed internal controls over cash, gate receipts, fish fry, etc. and to be mindful of Diocesan policies. They are working with Tony and BG to prioritize capital projects.

PTO: Abby reported at their last meeting they discussed the Mother/Son event and the upcoming skate party which is the week after Spring Break. The rest of the meeting focused on the new board and next year's calendar.

Someone asked for an explanation of the Profile of a Graduate Program. Abby explained the program launched on Back to School Night. It is very similar to JCPS's Backpack of Success Skills. Miss Bennett, the teacher liaison, shared that the students upload their work to a portfolio. These are competency skills that the teachers have agreed they want the students to be able to demonstrate upon graduation. These are tailored for Ascension. Grades 2, 5 and 8 students present their portfolios to a panel of teachers. Students and parents are welcome to come and watch the presentation. There is an app on the student's iPad to track their progress. Ascension School is the pilot for this program in the Archdiocese.

Abby said they are working on Teacher Appreciation Week. Churchill Downs donated tickets for Teacher Appreciation Week. The teachers will be going to the Downs after school on the Tuesday of Derby Week. The teachers are very excited about this. The PTO has realized the teachers feel more appreciated when they get to go somewhere rather than receiving a gift. At Christmas, the teachers went to Top Golf.

School Board: Bryan reported they finalized the school calendar for next year. They also finalized the vision/mission statement, and talked about how to convey and publicize that to the community.

There is interest about starting a Marketing Committee. There was an Ad Hoc Marketing Committee for the Open House pamphlets and material. But there is a need for a standing committee to focus on everything about Ascension and to get the information out to the community and families. Several School Board members, as well as parishioners who have a career in that field, are looking over all of the marketing materials and will discuss how to brand Ascension.

They also discussed tuition and enrollment. Next year's enrollment is better than expected.

Worship: Karen reported the position for Music Director is posted in the Record, and has received some applications. Referrals are welcome. This can be a part-time or full time position. Robert is leaving on June 30. He and his family are moving to North Carolina to be closer to family, and they are expecting their third child.

Some parishioners have stated they are not being scheduled in MSP for the ministry positions. We are not sure what happened. There will be a message posted in the bulletin for the next 3 weeks, asking anyone who hasn't been scheduled to contact Robert so they can be added to the schedule.

The internet streaming of our Mass has been an issue for multiple months. It is fixed, but we still need an additional speaker in the back of church to help with the audio.

Jake Kerger spoke at the Worship meeting about safety and security, and the procedures of locking the doors after Mass starts. He spoke about the door numbers being affixed. An officer, who is a certified EMT, donated a trauma bag and has offered free instruction for CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed. The training will be in May with dates to be announced in the bulletin. There is a limit of 20 per class. These classes are intended for our liturgical ministers. Depending how this goes, there may be additional classes. Jake has also identified a supplier for a proper medical bag.

Pastoral Report: Patrick reported he visited St. John Paul II. They are getting ready to open an approved food pantry for 40218 and 40220 area codes. There is a large need in these areas since South East Area Ministries (S.E.A.M) disbanded. This is a collaboration with surrounding parishes. Ascension wants to support this project with material, money and/or volunteers. JP II did indicate they are in need of shelving to store goods. They are repurposing an old concession stand. They hope to open on Saturdays in late summer, but this is still in early stages. The site has Dare to Care's approval. Patrick said he would appreciate any feedback from those who have been involved in previous outreach. As host parish, John Paul II hopes to be the main source of volunteers. They may need some additional help. This may also be a good opportunity for service hours.

Patrick stated there will be an announcement in an upcoming bulletin with his shift from Pastoral Associate to Director of Stewardship. Staff is in the middle of figuring out where different ministries land.

Next meeting April 23, May TBD, June 25.

Fr. Robert closed with prayer.