

St. Mary's Pastoral Council
Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Fr. Wayne called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
2. Members present: Fr. Wayne, Oliva Dooley, Kathy Reda, Bill Rosa, Deacon Kelley McCormick, Dolores Johnson, Ricardo Gonzalez, Ann Stano, Maria Brown, Nancy McCormick, and Bill Killion.
3. Opening Prayer: Fr. Wayne led us in the Hail Mary
4. Review and approval of last March's Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
 - a). Motion to act made by: Olivia Dooley
 - b). Second on the motion by: Ann Stano
 - c). Vote was taken: 11-0
 - d). Motion carried \checkmark
5. Parish Identity
 - a). LifeTeen:

The LifeTeen 27th Anniversary Mass will be on Sunday, September 29th at 5:00 pm. The theme of this year is "Sanctuary." Even though the program takes a break ever September, the CORE has meeting to plan the Life Nights and make the necessary preparations for the Anniversary Mass. Matthew has been reaching out to the local high schools, both Catholic and Public to invite them to the Anniversary Mass and to introduce the program.
 - b). Pastoral

Since Elizabeth Healy's departure, many people have stepped forward to continue the programming that she started. The Gospel Study Group meets weekly to discuss the upcoming Sunday Gospels. The Book Club has continued to meet. Plans are underway to have a fall "field trip" to the Big Apple (not New York but the farm in Wrentham). A suggestion was made to plan a meeting regarding "Thursdays with Mary."
 - c). Seniors

The Senior Luncheons continue – The next luncheon is Tuesday, September 17th. Nancy noted that in the summer months there has been a drop in attendance. It is expected to increase now that we are into the fall. There was a discussion on menu options and catering for the luncheons. Perhaps for November we will host a Senior's Thanksgiving. The *Friend to Friend* group continues to meet quarterly for note writing to parishioners who are sick or otherwise home bound. People are really enjoying receiving their cards.

d). Young Adults

The Young Adults continue to meet every Tuesday for Holy Mass, dinner, Rosary, and group discussions. The last Tuesday of each month is a social. This past Monday, they concluded the summer volleyball program. This fall they will start a Monday game night and/or Monday Night Football watching party. Several of the couples recently married from our Young Adult Group are expecting their first child in the next few months.

e). Connected in Christ

The numbers throughout the summer have been consistent. Our last event was a Wine & Cheese Social for the Feast of the Assumption. Another gathering is planned for September out on the patio. Plans for Oktober Fest are underway!

f). Men & Women Groups

Women's Group: Once again people have stepped-up to continue with the Women's Group Gatherings. The meet traditionally once every six weeks for a social. Plans are currently underway for a Fall Themed Gathering. Dolores and the committee have been doing a wonderful job with the planning of these events. We are grateful to all who have been helping.

Men's Group: The Men's Group have been gathering monthly to provide an evening out for the men of the parish. Over the summer we meet several times for cook-outs, Corn Hole games, and other outdoor activities. The next scheduled Men's Night is Friday, September 27th.

g). Parish Cemetery

The cemetery is going very well. Lino & Son's provide the landscaping, Devin Visconti from Cemetery Services takes care of all our burials, John Germano keeps the cemetery looking great. He spends a few days a month caring for the grounds, and Rich Killgoar continues to be the administrator of the cemetery. There are many graves available for sale.

h). Religious Education

This year we are re-vamping the Religious Education Program to better fit the needs of the parish as well as accommodate for the change in the age/grade for Confirmation. This past spring, the Cardinal lowered the Confirmation age to Grade 8. So, we have spent the summer developing a comprehensive program to prepare our students for each of the Sacraments.

(1). Grade: K-6 Programming: Olivia Dooley is responsible for this part of the Religious Education Program. Grade 6 which was part of EDGE in the past will be added to the Sunday Morning/Afternoon Program. This part of the program meets on the designated Sundays at either 10:00 am or 12:00 noon. The focus is on Prayer and the Sacraments. The trust for the Program is to encourage families to attend Holy Mass. The Program starts on Sunday, September 29th.

Teachers are still needed for Grades 2, 5 & 6.

(2). Grade: 7-8 EDGE Programming: Matthew Marquet is responsible for this part of the Religious Education Program. The students will meet on Monday evenings and prepare for their Confirmation in May. Once again, the focus of the program is on the Holy Mass. The program will highlight the Sacraments, Prayer, and the Ten Commandments while tackling moral issues facing the teens today.

(3). Grade: 9-10 ROC Programming: Matthew Marquet and Fr. Wayne will be responsible for this aspect of the program. The teens are scheduled to be Confirmed in December. The program begins on Monday, September 30th. A wide range of topics will be discussed including the Sacraments, devotions, Saints, and current events in light of the moral teachings of the Church.

(4) Regina Caeli Academy is flourishing. The teachers, staff, administration, and students are off to a good and productive school year. This past week a representative from Catholic University of America was on the campus to review our hybrid program for an upcoming book regarding alternative Catholic education facilities.

(5). RCIA Program will begin in October. Currently we have six adults signed up for classes.

i). New/Young Families

Meeting monthly for dinner/social gatherings. Our last event was in August and we had a Pizza Party. Elizabeth has a Mother's Group that meets regularly in the Children's Library in the Parish Center. Also, a Mother's Consecration to the Blessed Mother began on September 4th.

j). Rosary for all Needs

Nancy McCormick and Monique Souza have begun a program to reach out to those in the parish to come and spend some time together outside of meetings and hospital visits. The group prays the Rosary once a month after the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass and then have time to eat and socialize. It is open to families with members of all abilities, with a special invitation to those with any disabilities.

6. New Spiritual Programs

a). Monica Hour: Ann Stano has developed a program to reach out to those who have family members that are away from the faith. The group gathers in the St. Joseph's Chapel every Monday from 6:00-7:00 pm for *The Monica Hour*. They pray for people's loved ones who have strayed from the faith. People are invited to write their names/initials in the book as they enter the Chapel or give a request directly to Anne Stano or email Nancy McCormick. ***All names submitted are kept confidential.***

b). Sung Wednesday Vespers: A new Spiritual Program has been introduced for every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the St. Joseph Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel in which we sing/pray the Liturgy of the Hours. The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office, is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. Each of the five canonical Hours includes selections from the Psalms that culminate in a scriptural proclamation.

c). Expanded Adoration Chapel Devotions: A discussion took place on other possible devotional practices that can be prayed in community utilizing the Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

d). The Divine House Guest: This new devotion, the fruit of prayer in our Adoration Chapel, has been approved by the Archdiocese of Boston and has received the *nihil obstat* and *imprimatur*. Information has been in the bulletin and prayer cards were available at all weekend Masses.

7. Welcoming New Parishioner: We have noticed an increase in new faces here at the parish. We will host a welcome weekend on Sunday, November 3rd after the Masses. It will be an opportunity to welcome new parishioners and introduce them to some of the parish programming.

8. Faith & Blue Weekend. This is a weekend in which we work together with local law enforcement to promote unity and mutual support. We will host a Blue Mass on Sunday, October 27th at 9:00 am. After the Mass we will process together to Brookdale Cemetery for a wreath laying ceremony at the memorial stone for Dedham Police. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony at the cemetery.

9. Points for next Meeting centered around Advent Programming.

10. Adjournment:
 - a. Motion to adjourn made by: Bill Rosa
 - b. Second on the motion by: Dolores Johnson
 - c. Vote was taken: 11-0
 - d. Motion carried √
 - e. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr. Wayne Belschner _____
 Fr. Dominic Ngo _____
 Deacon McCormick _____
 Nancy McCormick _____
 Ann Stano _____
 Kathy Reda _____
 Bill Killion _____
 Ricardo Gonzalez _____
 Bill Rosa _____
 Elizabeth DeRosa _____
 Olivia Dooley _____
 Matthew Marquet _____
 Patty Arsenault _____
 Marissa Leonard _____