

# Parish Council Meeting 3/25/25

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Review and Vote on September Minutes**
3. **In attendance: Fr. Wayne Belschner, Dolores Johnson, Kathy Reda, Ann Stano, Maria Brown, Matthew Marquet, Bill Killion**
4. **Parish Identity**
  - a. **Life Teen**
    - i. Currently there are 10 teens who come to Life nights on Fridays, with a significant amount of teens stepping up to help out with Mass.
    - ii. Adjusted programming to Fridays in response to feedback from teens and parents. Faith Friday programming will be piloted through the end of the spring semester to see if we want to continue with the new model
    - iii. New efforts to engage via social media and campus ministers are being implemented.
    - iv. A retreat to Camp Methodios is planned for the weekend of April 11<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. **Pastoral**
    - i. A group for men of the parish called, *St. Joseph's Workshop*, is an in-depth look at the life of St. Joseph as portrayed by the Mystics of the church. This is led by Fr. Wayne and meets Wednesday evenings during Lent.
    - ii. A group for women of the parish, *Our Lady's Mantle*, is an in-depth look at the Blessed Mother as seen by the mystics of the church. This is led by Elizabeth Healy and meets Wednesday evenings during Lent.
    - iii. A group for anyone in the parish, *Reading the Fathers of the Church*, focuses on the writings of the Church Fathers. This group is led by Ellen Lytle and meets every Saturday morning during Lent.
    - iv. A monthly group for grandparents has been established by Elizabeth Healy and Jeanne Hern, meets once a month.
    - v. A new group, *The Holy Face of Jesus*, has been established by Ellen Sexton. It started with four members and has quickly grown to over 30 members. It meets monthly.
  - c. **Seniors**
    - i. The senior luncheons continue.
    - ii. Communion calls/bringing Communion to nursing homes continues.
    - iii. The *Friend to Friend* group continues to meet quarterly for note writing. People are really enjoying receiving their cards.
  - d. **Young Adults**
    - i. The *Young Adult* group starts with the 7:00 pm Mass with a light dinner to follow, then the Rosary.
  - e. **Connected in Christ**
    - i. The St. Patrick's Day Social was a big success. A Raffle was held that gave out \$4,500 worth of prizes.
  - f. **Men & Women's Groups**
    - i. Both Groups are on hold during Lent and will resume programming/gatherings after Easter.
  - g. **Parish Cemetery**

- i. There is now a link on the parish website that provides information on cemetery lots with costs.

#### **h. Religious Education**

- i. K-6
  1. Parents are happy with the new curriculum, which focuses more on the Mass. First Holy Communion is scheduled for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. ROC
  1. Middle School Confirmation is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 42 candidates for Confirmation
  2. We have successfully implemented the Middle School programing this year, with a homemade curriculum for grades 7 & 8 that can be used in future programs

#### **5. RCIA**

- i. Twenty-one candidates will be receiving the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

#### **6. Rosary for all Needs**

- i. Growing rapidly; a wide range of ages, continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

#### **7. New Family Activities**

- i. Meeting monthly for dinner gatherings.
- ii. A service project for Good Friday is being planned. It will take place on Boston Commons.
- iii. A Mother's Retreat will take place on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> here at St. Mary's. Fr. Hines will give two talks.

#### **8. Lenten**

- a. A pre-Lenten Retreat took place the weekend before Ash Wednesday at Betania II Retreat Center. Fr. Joseph Ferme gave the talks. 40 participants attended the overnight retreat.
- b. A Lenten Mission program has been taped for Dedham TV.
- c. After the Eucharistic Procession on Holy Thursday, we will have Adoration in Mary Hall with Eucharistic Devotions until 10:00 pm.
- d. Holy week schedule has expanded hours for confession.
- e. Many of those participating in the Lenten 40 Challenge have stepped up to take a weekly Holy Hour.
- f. People from the New Family group will be asked to participate again in the feet washing at the Holy Thursday Mass.
- g. An Easter egg hunt will take place after the 9:00 am family Mass.

#### **9. Holy Week & Easter**

##### ***Holy Week Mass Schedule at St. Mary's Church***

###### **Monday of Holy Week (April 14th)**

7:00 am Holy Mass  
12:10 pm Holy Mass  
6:00-7:00 pm Confessions

###### **Tuesday of Holy Week (April 15th)**

7:00 am Holy Mass  
11:00 am-12:00 pm Confessions  
12:10 pm Holy Mass  
3:00-4:00 pm Confessions

6:00-7:00 pm Confessions  
7:00 pm Holy Mass

**Wednesday of Holy Week (April 16th)**

7:00 am Holy Mass  
12:10 pm Holy Mass  
6:00 pm Sung Evening Prayer (*St. Joseph Chapel*)  
6:00 - 7:00 pm Confessions

***The Sacred Triduum***

**Holy Thursday (April 17th)**

7:00 am Sung Morning Prayer  
12:00-2:00 pm Confessions  
7:00 pm Holy Mass with a Eucharistic Procession  
to Mary Hall (Adoration until 10:00 p.m.)

**Good Friday (April 18th)**

7:00 am Sung Morning Prayer  
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
1:00-2:00 pm Confessions  
3:00 pm Passion Service  
6:00-7:00 pm Confessions  
7:00 pm Passion Service

**The Great Vigil of Easter (April 19th)**

8:00 am Sung Morning Prayer  
12:00-2:00 pm Confessions (in Church)  
7:00 pm The Great Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday (April 20th)**

7:00 am Main Church  
9:00 am Main Church and lower Church/Mary Hall  
11:00 am Main Church

***\*Please note that there is no  
5:00 pm Life Teen Mass on Easter Sunday***

**11. Miscellaneous**

- a. For the feast of St. Joseph, we had our annual reception after the daily Masses.
- b. Catholic Memorial 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be onsite Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> for a clean-up day of the Church in preparation for the Sacred Triduum.
- c. Deacon Kelley will coordinate the annual cleaning in the Church for Easter.

**12. Closing**

**13. Dismissal**