



Parish Pastoral Council - Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Location: St John Neumann (via Zoom)

Attendees:

- **Present:** Ron Bisek, Mickey Custodio, Rick Durig, Pam Erkel, Mary Hoffman, Tom Mahowald, Fr. Tony O’Neill, Patricia Ogbeide-Ihama, Robert Peterson, Michael Schmidt, Michaela Sallah
 - **Absent:** All present
 - **Minutes:** Submitted by Mary Hoffman, Secretary
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Call to order: 7:00pm by Rick Durig

Opening Prayer: Rick Durig

Pastor’s Report: Fr. Tony O’Neill

- *Covid Guidelines:* The governor has increased the capacity of churches to 50% occupancy. At this time, because of the added Sunday Mass times, no changes in seating are necessary.
 - When needed, seating will be changed to every-other pew compared to every third pew that we currently are using.
- *Ash Wednesday:* Ash Wednesday is next week, February 17. Ashes will still be distributed, as it is a powerful symbol of the Catholic Church as we lead into the Lenten season.
 - Options for distributing ashes have been discussed to keep the ritual as safe as possible.
- *Parish Lenten Retreat:* The parish retreat will begin Sunday evening, February 28, and end on Wednesday, March 3. Both morning and evening sessions will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
 - The retreat will be given by Fr. John Paul Erickson. The theme is: “*Living in Christ: God’s Daily Invitation.*”
- *SJN Women’s Group:* Fr. Tony will be offering a Saturday morning retreat for women on Saturday, March 20. It will begin with Mass at 8am, followed by Lenten reflection.
- *Communications Position:* A position will be opening for a Communications staff member at SJN due to the current staff person moving out of state.
 - Prior to hiring, the description of the position will be redesigned. Not only will this position encompass regular communications to parishioners, but will also be

responsible for creating new avenues of communication that can reach the many and diverse members of our parish church.

Finance Council Report: Tom Mahowald

- Fr. Tony's "financial ask" has been inspiring. There continues to be an uptick in giving with a variety of financial gifts given.
 - The current 5-week collection period which ended on February 7 is 31.2% above budget. Overall, for the current fiscal year, we are 8% above budget. Prior to Fr. Tony's financial ask, we were 8% below our planned budget.
 - The budget for the current fiscal year was approved last April (2020), prior to knowing the pandemic would last as long as it has. The current fiscal year's budget was set 5% lower than the prior year's budget in anticipation of only a short-term closure of our parish, rather than the long-term closure we have actually experienced.
- The budget planning for the next fiscal year (i.e. FYE 6/30/2022) is in its beginning stages. The first round of budget talks will begin at the next Finance Council meeting and will continue for two months before it is finalized.
- The hope is that the trends seen at the close of calendar 2020 and beginning of calendar 2021 will continue. The generous giving of our parishioners is a remarkable reflection of our parish.

Parish Pastoral Council Elections: Rick Durig

Discussion of the election process took place. Both the timing and the format were reviewed.

- Rick made the motion to keep the process as-is for this spring. All members approved.
- A subcommittee was formed to work on PPC election structure and timelines and report back at our next meeting in March. Subcommittee members are: Ron Bisek, Mary Hoffman and Michael Schmidt.

Committee/Ministry Updates: Rick Durig

- **Justice and Charity:** Michael Schmidt
 - There are many ministries under the umbrella of Justice and Charity. This includes ministries both within and outside our church.
 - Efforts are currently underway to update the ministry listings on the webpage and contact ministry leaders to verify that all ministries are still active.
 - Once ministries are verified, the SJN webpage will be updated. Our website continues to be a key recruiting tool and ease of locating various opportunities is critical.
- **Pastoral Care:** Patricia Ogbeide-Ihama
 - *Prayer Shawl* ministry is remaining active, continuing to donate shawls as needed. Donations of yarn were down due to Covid restrictions.

- *Funeral Ministry*: The governor's latest dial now allows for 50% capacity in church. There are still no funeral visitations or lunches. From November thru January, there were nine funerals at our parish.
- **Family and Community Life: Mickey Custodio**
 - *SJN Men's Group*: The first meeting took place on January 23. More than 85 men from our parish attended. The meeting was extremely well orchestrated and planned.
 - *Summer Sizzle*: Discussion continues to decide how to make this event happen this summer. The hope is to once again have the Summer Sizzle, but on a smaller scale than previous years.
 - *Young Adult Group*: The group has been meeting virtually since October. Prior to that, outdoor gatherings were held that allowed for social distancing.
 - *New Parishioner Committee*: Fr. Tony will be making a "Welcome" video for new parishioners to view.
 - The committee will be sending handwritten postcards this Saturday to Family and Community Life ministry leaders to check in with them and express thanks and gratitude for their service.
- **Faith Formation: Ron Bisek**
 - Danny Paulus, new youth minister, joined the group. Confirmation retreats are being held virtually and are going very well.
 - Recruitment of catechists continues to be a challenge, especially since it is not yet certain what next year will look like. Discussion took place regarding new ways to recruit.
 - *Faith Formation Ministry Fair*: The committee would like to host a ministry fair in May or June. This would serve as another avenue for recruiting catechists.
 - *Sacramental Programs*: *First Reconciliation* is taking place in February. *First Communion* is currently being planned for this spring. *Confirmation* will again take place at SJN rather than the Cathedral. No date has been set.
- **Worship: Pam Erkel**
 - No report.

Archdiocese Synod Formation: Bob Peterson

- Meetings will resume this month. Covid delayed the process.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meetings:

- Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - Joint Council/Committee Meeting (*Time TBD*)
- Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – Parish Pastoral Council meeting @ 7:00 pm