

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 9, 2023

CFC Room 103 7:00 pm

1. Prayer: Bill Peerenboom
2. Formation: Sarah Kirk
3. Review of Minutes
 - Motion to accept (with one noted correction), seconded, and passed.
4. School Update: Kimberly Parker
 - Update on next school year acceptance letter and projected student count (347)
 - Update on upcoming School Job Fair (18 Mar)
 - Update on ongoing staff, faculty hiring and open positions
 - Contract for new security cameras approved, and updates on security gate and fencing
 - Update on upcoming School Masses
5. PTPO Update: Kimberly Parker for Lisa Wise
 - Spring Gala ticket sales starting 18 Mar
 - Ice skating event 01 Apr
 - Update on 14 Mar Dining for Dollars event
 - PTPO newsletter will promote upcoming School Masses
 - Update on Mardi Gras donuts and a teacher free lunch event 09 Mar
6. Finance: Sue Heard
 - No major updates. Finance Council will meet next week.
 - Discussion of the ongoing update to Parish Census
 - Zoning updates underway for upcoming restroom work
7. Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion): (Written reports received prior to the meeting)

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- Community Service: Theresa Croson
 - No additions
- Religious Education: Andrea Kramer
 - No additions
- Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - No additions
- Worship: Pam Burke
 - No new report. Commission will meet next week
 - Council discussed Alter Server shortage, and potential ways to address this and grow more new Altar Servers, including a discussion of potential new chair and trainers for this ministry
- Youth: Sarah Kirk
 - No additions

8. Old Business:

- Sound system update
- Update on Lenten cards (Andrea Kramer) and distribution
- Discussed status of Fri Lenten meals to build community and strengthen outreach
- Greeting congregants at Easter Sunday services. (Some Council members volunteered, and Tom will develop a list of volunteers for each Mass)

9. New Business:

- Discussions on additional potential outreach plans to increase Mass attendance
- Discussion of the family cemetery plot on St. Mark grounds. Crystal and Fr. Pat provided the Council with a history of this plot and current efforts to maintain it.

10. Eyes and Ears

- No reports this month

11. Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting ends at 8:30

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Next Meeting: April 13, 2023 C103 7:00 PM

To: St. Mark Pastoral Council

From: Theresa Croson
Service Commission Representative

Date: March 7, 2023

Re: Service Ministry Report for March 9, 2023 Meeting

Blood Drive - The ST MARK Blood Drive this month is being conducted in coordination with the ST. MARK Girl Scouts and INOVA Blood Donor Services. It will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2023, from 8:30 am – 1:30 in the Cassidy Activities Center. Book Your Appointment Today! You can Visit <https://bit.ly/StMark0319> or Call 1(866) 256-6372, using Sponsor Code 0007 or Contact ST. MARK Catholic Church - bgrossman@stmark.org. A photo ID and surgical face mask are required. Surgical face masks will be provided if needed. Please allow one hour for your donation.

Lenten Cross of Mercy - The Lenten Cross of Mercy is located in Manassas and its mission is to provide food and clothing for those in need. The Lenten Cross can be found in the St Mark Narthex. It provides us all an opportunity to take part in prayer and almsgiving during LENT. There are a variety of tags to choose from, for either spiritual or corporal works of mercy. Parishioners are encouraged to take one or more tags to help make Christ's mercy visible for those in need in our community. Return material items to the foot of the Cross and monetary items to the Parish Office or mail them to the House of Mercy in the envelopes found at the foot of the cross. The House of Mercy is grateful for all donations that make it possible to share God's love.

CRS Rice Bowl - ST. MARK Catholic Church, will once again be participating in Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that helps students and families experience Lenten spirituality by helping people in need around the world. Be sure to visit www.crsricebowl.org to view videos of people whose lives are touched by the support and donations of the CRS Rice Bowl. Filled Rice Bowls can be returned to the ST. MARK Narthex at the round table with the purple cloth, to St Mark School staff or the ST. MARK Parish Office, at any time during LENT. Thank you for using CRS Rice Bowl with your family this LENT.

Matthew 25 - Family PASS (Preservation and Strengthening Services) offers a helping hand to families in need. Even though Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest counties in America, we have a significant percentage of our population that falls below the poverty level. They are the working poor, often working two or more jobs to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table for their families. Just one unexpected financial crisis can push them to the brink of homelessness. These are the people that Family PASS supports. The goal is to help families stay together, avoid eviction, and work towards ending the cycle of chronic financial stress and housing instability. When families enter the PASS Self-Sufficiency Program, they work with a dedicated case manager who helps them set goals to deal with their immediate financial crisis and then encourages additional education or technical training so they can earn a living wage and support their family on their own. Family PASS currently needs the following donated items: All purpose cleaners (409/Pine Sol); Cereals—hot/cold; Sponges; Rice; Dishwashing Soap; Liquid Laundry Detergent; Windex; Beans; Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; Canned Vegetables – low sodium; Canned Meat and Tuna; Sugar/Flour; Canned Soup; Canola Oil; Juice Boxes; Granola Bars; Mac and Cheese Snacks for Kids; Granola Bars; and Canned Fruit.

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Just Neighbors is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees, and refugees in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia; and helps build a community among clients, staff, volunteers and the larger society through education, advocacy, and volunteerism. Spanish speaking volunteers are needed to help in the Annandale Office. Volunteers answer phones and complete client intakes in English and Spanish, perform basic office administrative duties and when applicable, help with oral and written translations. Volunteers must be 18 or older. A \$10 background check fee is required. Contact volunteer manager, Sasia Coward for more details: sasia@justneighbors.org or 703-979-1240 or fill out a volunteer questionnaire [https:// www.justneighbors.org/volunteer/office-](https://www.justneighbors.org/volunteer/office-)

The Tithing Allocation Committee (TAC) is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7pm in the CFC Library. There are currently two (2) applications seeking donations from St Mark in the amount of \$23,000. Applications have been received from the Haiti College Fund (HCF) and the Centreville Immigration Forum. The total amount available for distribution will be forthcoming.

LENTEN ACTIONS for an EARTH at RISK. CARE for our COMMON HOME. Keep reusable bags for shopping and avoid one-use plastic. Respect the Earth by using only what you need. "Along with little everyday gestures, social love moves us to halt the Earth's degradation and encourages a "Culture of Care" that permeates all of society." Pope Francis, "Laudato Si"

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Religious Education Report for March 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK

Religious Education Week was celebrated February 12-18 and dedicated to the students, parents, volunteers, catechists, and staff involved in the RE program at *ST. MARK*. Taking as its pattern “Catholic Schools Week,” this first of its kind event highlighted the work of religious education and helped build community with RE families and the entire parish community.

The big event was the Mardi Gras/Super Bowl-themed potluck brunch on February 12 held before RE classes; 39 adults and 49 children signed-up to attend. Another part of the week was the Dining 4 Dollars event held on February 15 at Foster’s Grille in Vienna, which raised \$195.02 for High School and Middle School WorkCamp. Since our benefit was 20% of identified receipts, *ST. MARK* parishioners spent a little over \$975 while also getting to touch base with other parishioners at the restaurant.

CLASS MASS INITIATIVE

The Class Mass initiative will kick off at the end of this month. With the goal of developing community in the parish and between SMCS and RE families, Sue Heard is organizing sets of two or three grades of students to attend the same Sunday Mass together and then gather afterwards for refreshments provided by their families. The schedule is:

3/26/23 – 11am Mass	Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First grade
4/23/23 – 11am Mass	Second and Third grades
4/30/23 – 11am Mass	Fourth and Fifth grades
5/7/23 – 6pm Youth and Family Mass	Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth grades with dinner following in the Cassidy Activities Center

SACRAMENTS

FIRST EUCHARIST: The first of two identical FIRST EUCHARIST Family Workshops was held on February 19. Students toured the church, learned about items in the sacristy, and even made dough they could bake at home! The second, alternate workshop will be on March 12.

RCIA: Jeff Siems was received into the Church on February 18 at the 5:30 pm Mass.

Jennifer Gmerek and April Alexandrow celebrated the Rite of Sending on February 26 at *ST. MARK* and then the Rite of Election that afternoon at the Cathedral with Bishop Burbidge. The Book of the Elect with their names written in it is on display in our church sanctuary.

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION

A Sunday morning speakers series for adults starting at 9:30 am will run concurrent with RE classes for children. On February 26, the series kicked off with Michelle Haworth from Commissioned by Christ discussing mission trips. Deacon John spoke on March 5 about Liturgy of the Hours. Please join us for upcoming speakers including Bill Dalgetty on being Christ in the workplace (March 12) and the organization CAINA on Lourdes and its miraculous cures (March 26).

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March 2023 Community Growth Report

Always Our Children (AOC): ministry for LGBTQ folks, their families and friends, continues to meet every other month via Zoom. Next meeting March 13th. For Zoom sign-in information, please contact Mary Purdy at 703-385-9572.

Bakers for Funerals: Baked for 2 funerals in February.

Bereavement Program - Winter Bereavement Program ended this Sunday, after a successful 1/2 day retreat on Saturday, 3/4. Our next 9-week session will start April 16 and go until June 11. with a 1/2 day retreat on June 10, held at Turner Farmhouse. We are still looking for a leadership for the Grief Group, so that has not started yet.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) CCH will co-host the April 21st movie night and show *The Letter: Laudato Si' Film*. See trailer [here](#). CCH and Mrs. Parker met to discuss the Clean Air Campaign. Tentative plan to host speaker in May discussing rebates that are available for energy efficient appliances, solar cells and electric vehicles.

Christians in Commerce (CIC): No March update

Donut Sunday: Next donut Sunday March 12th, sponsored by the M&M's.

Coffee and Community (CAC): Emily continues to enjoy and look forward to serving coffee, tea and cookies to the folks who come after daily mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is a nice little ministry for her and the people who come enjoy visiting and seeing her too. Fr. Pat announced on the Thursday after Ash Wednesday that Emily's cookies were "Lenten cookies, so it is alright to eat them!" 😊. He is a great support, for which we are thankful. Many of the staff come by to fill their coffee mugs, grab a cookie and have a short visit with her too. She is really getting to know so many parishioners—it's great!

Evangelization Ministry ALPHA: The winter Alpha sessions began on December 16th in person in the Cassidy Activity Center and on Zoom with more than 40 people in attendance. In addition, the Sunday RE Alpha continued from the fall and concluded just before Ash Wednesday and was attended weekly by about 20 parishioners and parents of RE students.

Please join us for a meatless spaghetti dinner before the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 10th

- When? 6:15pm – 7:15pm in the Cassidy Activities Center
- What are we serving? Regular and gluten free long spaghetti with a variety of sauces including marinara, garlic and oil with fresh basil, pasta primavera, and a specialty pasta with tuna and a cream sauce, salad, and bread.
- How Can I help? Invite your family and friends! Assist with set up and clean up! Need service hours? Perfect – we can sign off on your hours!

You are also welcome to join us after Stations of the Cross in the CAC for an Alpha video, "Who is the Holy Spirit?" [Alpha Film Series | Episode 09 Who is the Holy Spirit?](#) After the music and video, we will share in small groups. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Asta at karenjasta@gmail.com or 703-489-0826 or Sarah Kirk at skirkbtr@gmail.com or 703-403-3072. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 8th.**

Funeral Receptions: Two funeral receptions in February.

Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council): Coming up: we will lead a discussion series for Lent, **Into the Breach**, which explores Catholic manhood and how to deal with the challenges of the current day. Sessions start the week of Ash Wednesday. Email Bill Hemmingson at bhemmingson@gmail.com to join or for more information.

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Our **Mass for unborn children** is March 25, 7 pm at OLGC. This is the Knights' International Day of the Unborn Child. **KOVAR** is our annual drive to raise funds for the intellectually disabled, providing transportation, group homes, and other assistance. We get our drive going at OLGC at the end of April.

Le Cercle Francais: Continues to meet via Zoom Tuesday from 10 to 12 and converse en Francais.

MOMs Ministry: No March update.

Family Movie Night Ministry: The next monthly family movie night will be on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17. The movie we're showing is *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*, which begins from a premise of some magic and luck. All are welcome to the Activities Center for ice cream at 6:30 pm and movie at 7:00 pm.

Newcomers' Committee: Next date is April 23rd. We will invite new families at the school to the Newcomers' Luncheon. We want to see if any committees would like to have a presence that day. Perhaps an information table in the narthex? A committee fair?

Prayer Requests: We continue to receive many prayer requests that are sent out to our 150+ prayer volunteers.

Peace and Justice Committee (PJC): Not meeting.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: continues to make Shawls, Hats & Scarves for shelter and The Lamb Center, Baby blankets and Lap Blanket. We plan to make baby caps for preemies and newborns for A Woman's Choice. We also plan to make small tote bags for nursing homes.

Praying College Moms (PCM): group stays steady with our monthly meeting this coming March 9. There was walking Rosary, said for our Young Adults, followed by a Tea Social at St. John Neumann on the First Friday, March 3, following their 12:00 Mass. PCM is actively seeking new leadership to continue with its non-profit status, by April 19. If we do not find new leadership, we will continue as small communities of Faith at different parishes.

Pro-Life Committee (PLC): Seeking new chair.

Remembrance Ministry (RM): The RM continues to send out cards and condolence notes to those who have lost a loved one. Our membership at around 8-10 people..

Senior Ministry (M&M's): Activity Plans:

Mar 12 - Sponsoring Donut Sunday

Mar 15 - St Patrick's Day Lunch at the Auld Shebeen in Fairfax. For more information call Joyce Kerrigan 703-262-0148 or Anne Shea 703-938-9049.

Small Communities of Faith now Small Group (SG): We have been advertising small groups for Lent and have started up a new group of about 7 people and added a new couple to the married couples group. Juliescott2010@gmail.com.

Welcome and Information Desk: Shall we recruit volunteers?

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Worship/Liturgy Commission

No update this month. Commission will meet week of 13 March

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Youth

Middle School

- February's Youth & Family Mass was well received with that month's Confirmation Spirit Team fixing a good meal. We had a guest speaker talk about missionary trips to the DR and Haiti.
- Middle School WorkCamp is now at St. Mark for this summer. St. Leo, St. Mary of Sorrows, St. Veronica and St. Paul Chung will be joining us on July 5-8.
- Steubenville Conference at Franciscan University is being held July 14-16, 2023. We have 13 other parishes coming along with us on two buses this year (over 100 youth/adult chaperones). Some of them are first timers and want to check it out. Hopefully, it will transform them into coming back year after year!
- The Confirmation Retreats are set for this October. The Girls weekend is October 13-15 and the Boys weekend is October 20-22; both will be at Hunting Ridge in Winchester.
- Our annual ski trip with OLGC to a new ski location (Bryce Resorts in VA) went well. One full bus of skiers had a fun day with no injuries!

High School

- HS WorkCamp 2023 is now back on track. We have a smaller group than in past years, but they are eager to attend and help those who need assistance. The Office of YM is expecting pre-Covid numbers.
- Trying to gather interested youth for the Living Stations on April 7th. Please spread the word!
- Steubenville Conference notes above.

College / Young Adults

- I am still looking for volunteer leaders to develop activities thru the St. Mark FB page.
- Upcoming events will still be emailed my way on a monthly basis from the Diocese.

CYO Sports

- CYO Volleyball and Track/Field are beginning in mid March and continuing through mid to late May.
- CYO BB is winding up this month with championship games this coming weekend (March 11-12).

Scouting

- Closely working with Todd Lundquist and Phil Root with Scouts and leaders to involve them more in the parish youth activities.
They are again helping us with spreading mulch on MULCH DAY – March 25th.

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