

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 11, 2023

CFC Room 103 7:00 pm

1. Prayer: Pam Burke

2. Formation: Andrea Kramer

3. Review of Minutes

- a) Motion to accept April minutes made, seconded, and approved.

4. School Update: Kimberly Parker

- a) With the end of year approaching, it is a busy time of year with the closing of this academic year and getting ready for the upcoming year.
- b) Standardized testing is happening, and proctors are needed.
- c) Teacher/staff: several are moving away, but there are others who are incoming into the family.
- d) It was an eventful year, with Colonial Day, the State Fair, International Night, and the Gala.
- e) A note of thanks to the tremendous effort made by the parents that turned International Night into a rousing success.
- f) The last day of classes will be either Friday, June 9th or Monday, June 12th. The day requirement is because of using a snow day to deal with a boiler issue. If that can be accepted, the original Friday date will be used.
- g) Enrollment for next year is excellent, with a waiting list for most grades. Seats are available in the kindergarten and preschool levels..
- h) Mrs Parker is to announce which teachers are leaving this week.

5. PTPO Update: Lisa Wise

- a) The Gala went well. It was the big event of the last three years.
 - 1. The team effort was amazing. Devotion to the cause was clearly there.
 - 2. Approximately \$145K in gross income, with a net income of \$110K. This is really good..

3. Parents are hungry to socialize together, to be together. This is the first opportunity.
 4. Planning for next year is underway. While it will not be a Gala, it will be a chance to organize the community of parents.
 5. All retiring board members are volunteering to take some of the tasks from next year's board.
 6. \$60K is being donated to the church for upgrading the security system.
 7. \$20K will be used toward fence repairs at the back of the school/gym and to go around the playground.
- b) Question: 7th graders are having trouble getting volunteers from Sarah and Kevin.
1. There is a compact form. However, some improvements to the system may need to be implemented for next year.
 2. At the start of the next academic year, there could be a meeting to help start the process?
 3. Employ the class ambassadors (room parents) to get/give a heads up on what is going on and when.
 4. Is there a possibility of a bridging activity? Since the start of the school year is often hectic, some meetings over the summer might aid in the communications. This needs to be done across the board, as people are assuming lots of information that they know and they don't know.
 5. Altar server question. Sue Heard is willing to take over IF another teacher takes on one of her other assignments, such as crews or the safety patrols. The school enrollment is 400, with religious education down to 200, but there should be enough students to recruit additional servers.
- c) There is an Eagle Scout/Gold Scout project waiting to be addressed: to clean the family graveyard on school grounds. Or this could be done as a service hours project. Maintenance can be transferred to the landscapers.

6. Finance: Sue Heard

- a) The Finance Meeting is scheduled for next week. Details will be addressed next meeting with an update on the preliminary plans.

7. Fall Festival Cathy Abi-Kattar

- a) The Fall Festival is being brought back, bigger and better than ever.
- b) It is a joint effort between the school and the parish.

- c) It is scheduled for September 24, from 1pm to 4pm. The front parking lot will be blocked for the masses, so parishioners will have to use the side or back lots.
- d) The rides have been secured.
 - 1. There will be seven rides.
 - 2. Five of the rides come with attendants, thereby minimizing the requirement of volunteers to run the rides.
 - 3. Using the same group who has worked with OLG, so they are familiar with parish requirements. Insurance, for example, is covered.
- e) The Festival is NOT a fundraiser, but it should break even.
- f) We are looking for everyone to participate. Groups will have ownership of specific sections.
- g) Question on how to collect money
 - 1. There is a Wristband available. For \$20, rides will be unlimited. These are only available as a presale during the masses.
- h) The No DJ band (Not our Day Jobs) of parents of graduates is scheduled to appear.
- i) The Flu Shot Lady is being requested
- j) One table with information about various commissions will be available for anyone interested.

8. Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion):

- a) Community Service: Theresa Croson
 - a. No questions or additions to the report
- b) Religious Education: Andrea Kramer
 - a. For the first time since pandemic began, baptisms are now being integrated into mass. Private services are still available.
- c) Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - a. Not available.
- d) Worship: Pam Burke
 - a. Eucharistic minister questions (see Worship Concerns).

- e) Youth: Sarah Kirk
 - a. No questions or additions to the report

9. Old Business: Parish Outreach Initiatives

- a) Class Masses
 - 1. They are going well.
 - 2. All the underclasses had good turnouts.
 - 3. Reaction is positive and it is felt that this is worth doing. It is on the schedule for next fall's calendar so families can get to know each other sooner.
- b) Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter mailings
 - 1. In agreement on the positive effect of the Easter mailing.
 - 2. Arranging to get the bulk mailing costs into the budget.
- c) Parish Breakfast/Appreciation Dinner etc.
 - 1. On the calendar for next year.
 - 2. SMAK team may need encouragement to join.
- d) Is there an index of ministries?
 - 1. The creation of worship@stmark.org and other generic accounts who allow whomever is in charge to have access to that account.
 - 2. Leadership security can be achieved by changing passwords as power is transferred.
 - 3. Talk to Crystal and Laura about this

Worship Concerns

- a) Altar servers
 - 1. Recruitment: referenced back to PTPO discussion.
 - 2. Leadership questions: trying to get a permanent leader.
- b) EMs wearing masks

1. Consensus is to go to individual choice.
2. Returning to both body and blood?
 1. Question on communal cup usage.
 2. Individual cups work fine for the few individuals who are gluten intolerant, not an option for the whole parish.
3. Will reconsider masks over the summer.

c) Recessional Music

10. New Business: None

a) Parish in a snapshot

1. What should go into the new brochure?
 1. Information about the ministries and commissions,
 2. Where the money goes
2. Will require an editor for consistency.
3. Print for distribution at stewardship in fall
4. Committees to form to write, edit, and find photographs
5. Finance council will look at costs at the next meeting.
6. Volunteers for these positions: please send in an email

11. Eyes and Ears

a) Complaints about the website being out of date and hard to navigate

1. Site is being redone.
2. Facebook page has been updated.

b) Formed: the online platform with movies and educational material from a Catholic perspective. It is nicknamed "The Catholic Netflix".

1. Our free subscription ends this month (expires June 1).
2. Diocese pays \$1100 of the \$2000 cost.
3. In the past year, over 7200 hours were used with 300 people using the account.

4. If the account is renewed, we can grow and promote the usage through other commissions and ministries.
 5. Religious Education will give it a go if approved.
 6. Parish access account is StMarkViennaVa.
- c) Diocesan Bash (Jr High Confirmation) - St Mark was prominently displayed when the bishop spoke. Kevin was leading!

12. Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting Ends: 8:27

Next meeting: June 8, 2023

To: St. Mark Pastoral Council

From: Theresa Croson
 Service Commission Representative

Date: May 6, 2023

Re: Service Ministry Report for May 11, 2023 Meeting

Catholic Home Missions – Catholic Home Missions is the name for dioceses and parishes in the United States, including its territories and former territories, which cannot provide basic pastoral services to Catholics without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass and sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters and lay people. For many decades, the Church in the United States has sent missionaries overseas to serve the people of Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. The home missions are dioceses and parishes here in the United States that need the same kind of support.

Parishioners at ST MARK offered up donations to help strengthen the Church here at home, as the Church spreads the Gospel across our country. As an example, donations are helping our brothers and sisters with an influx of Ukrainian refugees supported by the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, located in Stamford, Connecticut. Bishop Burbidge has asked the Parishioners in the Arlington Dioceses to help our Catholic Churches most in need, right here in the US. Information about the Appeal to the Diocese for our Catholic Home Missions can be found by visiting www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Matthew 25 - ST. MARK is partnering with Catholic Charities to collect fruit and vegetables for the St. Lucy Food Warehouse, which is located in Manassas, VA through May 31, 2023. Donated food will be taken where there is the greatest need of helping people throughout our Diocese. The SLFW is greatly in need of: Bagged Apples, Oranges, Lemons, Potatoes, Carrots and Cabbages. Catholic Charities, in turn, will deliver these produce donations to pantries for immediate distribution to help struggling families attain healthy diets.

Every month, ST MARK volunteers prepare a complete chicken dinner for delivery to hungry neighbors at the Embry Rucker Family Shelter. Volunteers are needed to cook food at home from a set menu, then place them in the ST MARK Activities Center kitchen. Most volunteers sign up 3 or 4 times a year. It's easy to sign up online for all any job that is needed; just with the volunteer's name and email. If you're not a cook, not problem! A driver is needed each month to deliver all the food to the shelter in Reston on the first Thursday of the month. Volunteers can go to the "Sign Up Genius" located on the Service page of ST MARK's website: www.stmark.org; or call Diane at 703-620-0269; or email stmarkgiftofpeace@gmail.com

Bishop's Lenten Appeal: Throughout this EASTER Season, Bishop Burbidge reminds us that it is not too late to make a donation to the BLA, as a means of uniting us a Catholic family by supporting programs, ministries and services that no single individual or parish can offer by itself. With Religious Education and Catholic School ministries so important to the spiritual growth and wellbeing of our children and teen-agers, the Diocesan Offices of Catechetics and of Catholic Schools are necessary and beneficial ministries supported by the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. On the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the donations received helped to provide 49 Seminarians (and perspective priests) with room, board, tuition, healthcare expenses, as well as co-coordinating vocation awareness events for both men and women (perspective Sisters). This office also oversees the Permanent Diaconate Program (through which our own John Allen and Mark Voorheis are blessings to us). The website for donations can be found at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA

POOR BOX: ST MARK has four (4) Poor Boxes located at the back of the church and one (1) located in the Chapel. The donations from the Poor Boxes are used to help needy folks in our area. The money goes directly to help those in need of food, clothing, paying utility bills, and many other basic costs to help those in dire need. The Vienna/Oakton area is not immune to this growing issue. ST MARK Church receives many calls asking for help. Every penny counts toward giving someone else hope.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry – A PILL BOTTLE collection for Earth Day was conducted on April 21 through April 23. Donations of empty, rinsed pill bottles were received that weekend. The donated empty pill bottles are to be reused in poorer countries that can't afford dispensing medicine as we do here in the US. Reusing the plastic bottles also helps reduce plastic pollution. This helps both the poor and the Earth at the same time!

Religious Education Report for May 2023

CLASS MASS INITIATIVE

The Class Mass initiative has wrapped up with continued noticeable increase in attendance at the 11 am Masses when a Class Mass was scheduled. On April 23, the 2nd and 3rd grade Class Mass had 41 adults and 45 kids who signed-up as planning to attend (86 total). The 4th and 5th grade Class Mass on April 30 had 39 adults and 50 children sign up (89). The Class Mass for middle school families was held May 7 during the 6 pm Youth and Family Mass; about 50 additional adults and youth were expected to attend. The RE Commission would like to organize this program again next year; they are considering dates in October/November to connect families to the possibility of Mass attendance earlier in the RE/school year so they might form the habit of regular Mass participation.

SACRAMENTS

FIRST EUCHARISTS will be celebrated at all regularly-scheduled Vigil and Sunday Masses for the first two weekends of May. There will be about 15 children receiving their FIRST EUCHARIST at each of these six Masses.

The Sacrament of CONFIRMATION will be celebrated in a single Mass on Thursday, May 18 at 7 pm by Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. A reception will follow in the CAC.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Sunday morning speaker series for adults wrapped up in April. The final presentations were on Eucharistic miracles, the impact of increased screen use on families and faith, and the importance of Catholic catechists.

Mark Morneau is leading the next Zoom Bible study with two sessions: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm with 19 people registered and Thursdays at 10 am with 7 registered. The study is using the Ascension Press video series called "Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism: Part One – Called into His Presence," which focuses on the Old Testament elements of the outer sanctuary of the Tabernacle and how they connect to the New Testament and our contemporary understandings of the liturgical calendar, the priesthood, purgatory, Baptism, and more.

May 2023 Community Growth Report

Always Our Children (AOC): No May update.

Bakers for Funerals: Baked for one funeral in April.

Bereavement Program - Bereavement Program - Spring session is in full swing, 11 guests, will end on June 11, with 1/2 day retreat on June 10 at Turner Farmhouse. Fall program will start on August 20, and end on October 15, with a 1/2 day retreat on October 14. Summer Grief Gathering on June 25, 3:30 to 5, at Turner Farmhouse.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) About 25 people attended the April 21st movie night showing the *The Letter: A message for our Earth*. Other parishes are getting about half of the attendees they would have expected before Covid so this is about right. Also, SJN showed the movie at the same time. On **May 21st at 4 pm** Sarah Kurush will walk us through the wide array of tax credits and rebates available for things like electric vehicles, solar panels, appliances, new doors and windows. Pill bottle collection was held the weekend of Earth Day. Some spirit team members helped remove labels and sort. Plants in Mary Garden are now identified with labels. We are working on setting a date for a hands-on information session in the garden and hope this may attract some more volunteers. Placed a spot in the bulletin

encouraging parishioners to bring flowers and place in vase we have provided to honor Mary on feast days and days that are personally meaningful to them.

Christians in Commerce (CIC): No May update

Donut Sunday: No May update.

Coffee and Community (CAC): Several people have asked me if Emily plans to continue Coffee and Community through the summer, and the answer is, "Of Course! She considers it her full-time job!" Other than one week of vacation in July when we go to the beach with our family, she will be there on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She looks forward to these days and seeing and serving all those who come.

Evangelization Ministry ALPHA: The Alpha team sponsored a new series called "The Search" from Augustine Institute using Formed. The Search is a 7 session program that begins with prayer, dinner, a short video followed by fellowship and sharing in small groups. We are meeting weekly in the Cassidy Activity Center and on Zoom contemplating "What Do You Seek?", Who are You?, Why a God?, Who is Jesus?, Am I Saved, and Why a Church?

Funeral Receptions: One reception in April.

Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council): No May update

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

MOMs Ministry: No May update

Movie Night Ministry: Our April movie night was an environmental documentary co-sponsored with the Care for Our Common Home ministry; we had almost 25 attendees and a helpful post-movie discussion about ways to take actions in our lives to protect and care for the environment. Our next family movie night is May 19 with a screening of Puss in Boots: The Last Wish. This movie is our final one before a summer hiatus, as it is too bright in the CAC to view the movie screen with the late sunsets at this time of year. Movies will resume in September under the same leadership.

Newcomers' Committee: The New Comers Spring luncheon was successful. We had 4 new families attend. We plan to request a table at the Fall Festival to put the word out about our events for next year.

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: No May update.

Praying College Moms (PCM) The praying college Moms group at St Mark met last month and will continue with our last meeting of the year this coming Thursday. The meetings will stop over the summer and resume next Fall (September). We continue to pray for our young adults, and success in their studies, career, and summer internships... and discuss the book "What to Say; Dialogues that support the Catholic Church and Gently Engagement".

The PCM.org had a Walking Rosary at SJN's on this last First Friday for our young adults.

PCM.org now has 2 administrators and needs one more to maintain our 401(c)3 status. If not found, we will continue as Small Communities of Faith in the parishes.

Respectively Submitted by Frances Chamberlin

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

Remembrance Ministry (RM): Remembrance Ministry continues to send cards and notes of condolence to those who have lost loved ones. One new member has joined our group, as another left upon her move out of the area and one is on leave. Feedback from members indicate a high rate of satisfaction in being part of this ministry.

Senior Ministry (M&M's): No May update.

Small Communities of Faith now Small Group (SG): Nothing new to report in May.

Welcome and Information Desk: Shall we recruit volunteers?

May 8, 2022

Worship Commission

We discussed the question posed by the Parish Council, regarding EM's still wearing masks. The response was we will do whatever Father Pat wants. If the policy switches to optional, there are some EM's who will continue to wear masks, and some won't. People always have the option of going to a priest or EM who is wearing a mask. The mask isn't just a layer of protection from COVID but other illnesses. We do not have an idea of how many EM's are no longer serving because of COVID.

There was strong consensus of not distributing/receiving the Precious Blood - too soon for that.

The meeting then moved on to concerns and affirmations of our Holy Week Services. The few concerns were relatively minor. Some items only those involved in planning would notice.

Palm Sunday - There were not enough ushers at the 11:00 procession to help guide parishioners.

Penance Service - There were 8 priests available for confession and the service ended approximately 8:15.

Holy Thursday – It was good to have the foot washing ritual back. There are minor adjustments that have already been made to the ‘script’ for next year. The practice that was held the previous Saturday was crucial. Practice clearing the altar and removing the flowers. Maybe that evening, show the ushers removing the flowers where the handles are on the flower arrangement on the altar.

Good Friday – The largest concern was the quiet time for adoration. The church was being readied for living stations being held that evening when people were still trying to pray. More need to request/monitor quiet in the Narthex when leaving church.

Vigil – When outside around the fire, maybe some type of better lighting for the celebrant reading the prayers or larger font. Update the script for better cues when which lights should be turned on/off in the church.

Easter – Glitch with the microphone at the ambo. We didn’t realize there was an easily activated mute button. Lectors and ushers are now aware of the switch.

Sound System Update

The power glitches due to wind gusts on one weekend mass, caused the system to need a reset. It was discovered that is not easy to do. A switch will be installed to fix this in future events. We are still waiting for a chip for the system.

Dates to Note

Mother’s Day Weekend – First Communions

May 18 - Confirmation

June 11 – last youth/family mass until the fall

June 18 Fathers Day

Parish Offices closed Juneteenth – June 19

Listen Everywhere App

This is hearing-assistance app to better hear in church. By downloading this app at home, our WiFi won't support the download at church, it uses your smartphone to connect to our sound system. There are also devices available if people don't want to use their own device. We have two and four more are anticipated.

Marjorie Brown is taking the position of Lector Coordinator for us. Thank you to Lucy Chang who has been coordinating.

PCU: April / May June 2023

Middle School

- May's Youth & Family Mass was well received with the Confirmation Spirit Team preparing a warm meal. I talked to the group about Middle School WorkCamp and Steubenville. NO April Youth Mass because of Easter.
- Middle School WorkCamp will be at *St. Mark* 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 11 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...on their own or with other parishes!
- Confirmation Mass is set for Thursday, May 18th at 7 pm with Bishop Broglio. Rehearsal is Wednesday, May 17th at 7 pm.
- We have one more Friday night this Friday, May 12th in the Youth Room

High School

- HS WorkCamp 2023 is on track. We have a small (6 person) group, but they are eager to attend and help those who need assistance. The Office of YM WorkCamp numbers are considerably down as well from across the Diocese.
Mulch Day and Bingo fundraisers went well and added about \$5000 toward our fundraising goal.
- Getting set for our last fundraiser – Flowers and Cupcake this weekend
- Catholic Youth Communities have been steady, meeting every Wednesday. I discussed with Sarah about moving HS Sunday to Wednesday night for next school year.

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 continuing through mid to late May.
We opened volleyball up to 3 & 4th grade youth with a big surge in registration!

Scouting

- Closely working with Todd Lundquist and Phil Root with Scouts and leaders to involve them more in the parish youth activities. Todd is stepping down, but will continue to help as much as possible. Mary Nuese will be taking over his roll as Scout Master.