

Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Room C-103 7:00 pm

1. **Prayer** Sandy Gologly
2. **Formation** Sandy Gologly
3. **Review Minutes** Greg Ulses
4. **School Update** Gabriela Parks
5. **PTPO Update** Malia Collins
6. **Finance** Sandy Gologly
7. **Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion):** Written reports received Tuesday of week of meeting
 - a) Community Service: Theresa Croson
 - b) Religious Education: no replacement yet for Andrea
 - c) Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - d) Worship: Pam Burke
 - e) Youth: Sarah Kirk
8. **Old Business:**
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9. **New Business:**
 - Fr. Peter intro
 - Fall Festival recap
10. **Eyes and Ears**
11. **Closing Prayer:** Father Peter

Next Meeting: October 17, 2024 Room C-103 7:00PM

A. Community Service

Theresa to discuss. Did not get a report in due to arm injury.

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B. Religious Education

Over the Summer

First of all, it's important to give Andrea Kramer a big "Thank You" for her time as the RE Commission Chair. She was great at organizing and a wonderful person to bounce ideas off of. She would help distill the ideas of multiple people into a one clear articulation. She will be sorely missed in the RE commission.

The RE Commission had many exciting things over the summer!

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS was held July 22-26 this year. The theme is Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God.

Bare Your Souls

This creative event started as an activity to continue the adult faith formation programs that normally take place during children's RE in the CFC gym. Participants gathered in the parking lot and then ran or walked along a route and finally regrouped for a devotional; all before the 9am Sunday Mass.

New School Year

Religious Education We started RE much earlier than in previous years on August 25 th . The Catechist Inservice was held 8am-2pm on August 24 th ; starting with Mass. Most adult Catechists were able to attend.

Safe Environment Training

Over the summer, Bishop Burbidge made a couple changes to safe environment training for elementary and middle school. Previously, safe environment training was only required by the diocese for grades 1 and 5-8. Now, it is required for all grades 1-8; as well as high school. The other change that he made was that that Circle of Grace (COG) is the only program that may be used for elementary and middle school students as the other program, Formation in Christian Chastity, was no longer being updated by the Diocese of Scranton. This worked well for us since COG was by far the preferred program to use at ST. MARK. The only difficulty is that a catechist must be trained before administering the program to meet licensing requirements. For more information check out this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3H5WHernTw&t=7s>

The RE Commission has continued to coordinate with other commissions to promote educational and social events. The Alpha group is providing adult faith formation during Sunday children's RE and was present at the Sunday parent orientation meeting the first day of RE to encourage parents to participate. The revival of the Mom's Ministry has been a great boost to mothers with children in RE. They were present at the Sunday parent orientation as well.

Bible Study

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Mark Morneau has started up another bible study on the book of revelation. The series is published by Ascension Press.

C. Community Growth

Always Our Children (AOC): In our first meeting for this ministry year on Sept. 9th, we talked about having a mission statement for AOC. One of our members, used the wording from a Maneline article Mary Purdy wrote about 15 years ago when we first started. This mission statement fits our “raison d’être”. We meet by Zoom every other month on the second Monday. Mary Purdy

“Always Our Children is a St. Mark Catholic Church ministry which provides a place where LGBTQ persons and/or their families and friends support one another by sharing their concerns and experiences in a confidential Catholic setting through regular meetings throughout the year. It is a space in which any pain of alienation or rejection felt by the participants can be acknowledged and where we can witness the presence of Christ to one another and to the world.”

Bakers for Funerals: No September update. Mary Lou McIntire

Bereavement Program: The Fall Bereavement Program started at St. Mark on August 25. Meetings are on Sundays from 3:30 to 5, and will end on October 20. The 1/2 day retreat is on October 19, from 9-1 at Turner Farmhouse. The group usually has 5 to 10 attendees, from St. Mark, OLG, St. Leo and other folks who hear about us from friends and family. The next program will be hosted by OLG, starting in October and ending in January.

The Grief Group, a drop-in grief support group will start in November and be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month 7:15 to 8:30 at Turner Farmhouse. Sarah Kirk

Book Club: The St. Mark Book Club has selected the following books for our Fall reading schedule:

Sep 12, 2024 “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home” by Pope Francis I (184 pages) This encyclical was selected at the suggestion of the “Care for Our Common Home” Ministry to help recognize the Sep 1 to Oct 4 “Season of Creation” named by Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople

Oct 10, 2024 “Too Small a World: The Life of Mother Francis Cabrini” by Theodore Maynard (373 pages) This selection was inspired by several members watching the excellent movie “Cabrini” that came out last Spring on International Women’s Day.

Nov 14, 2024 “The Lamb’s Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth” by Dr. Scott Hahn (192 pages) This selection was inspired by the conclusion of the Year of Eucharistic Revival and the St. Mark Bible Study group’s Fall Study of the Book of Revelation.

The Book Club was quiet for the summer. I ran out of time to try and organize a summer movie. Also, the St. Mark Audio/Visual facilities are not the best for movies and presentations (other than children movies). The Smart Screen is small and the sound doesn’t carry well without distortion when amplified. Mark Morneau

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH): Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4 pm via Zoom. Next meeting is 10/10. Season of Creation (SOC) - September 1 to October 4:

Fr. Peter offered a prayer for creation on the first weekend of SOC, weekly intercessions are offered and we worked with Sean Moynihan to improve the sustainability of the Fall Festival. SOC will close with a Blessing of the Animals on October 4th. We are planning a spring stepping-stone workshop led by Ioana Belcea, a mosaic artist and iconographer, to replace our Mary Garden stepping-stones.

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CCH members are working with the Diocesan Care for Creation Network (CCNCDA) to develop a "No Idling Policy" for our schools. Betsy Zolper and Annette Kane
Christians in Commerce (CIC): No September update. Bill Dalgetty

Cursillo: The Women's 158 Cursillo weekend was held on Thursday, March 14th - Sunday, March

17th at Missionhurst in Arlington, VA. Fr. Horace (Tuck) Grinnell and Fr. Ignatius Chung presided as priests and spiritual directors celebrating mass, hearing confessions, and delivering very powerful messages. The St. Mark Cursillistas have been actively involved in several ministries at St. Mark and throughout the Diocese. A Diocesan Ultreya was held at St. Mark on May 31st. More than 50 people attended from parishes near and far. The Cursillo team will assist the Men's Cursillo weekend scheduled November 7th - 10th at Missionhurst through prayer, preparing meals, delivering supplies, and serving on team. The next Diocesan Ultreya will be held at St. Mark in early December. Karen Asta

Coffee and Community (CAC): October 4th marks the second anniversary of Emily's Coffee and Community ministry! She does it year-round, with the exception of a week off for summer vacation and one at Christmas. It is well attended and lots of friendships have deepened or developed—a friendly crowd of parishioners! Plus two supportive priests! A blessing to Emily and all who stop by!
Emily and Marilyn Dalgetty

Donut Sunday: No September update. Pam Burke

Evangelization Ministry ALPHA: The Alpha Team continued to meet every Monday night through the summer. Each week we watched one episode of The Chosen, prayed together, shared a meal, and discussed the video. Several new parishioners and parishioners as far away as St. John the Apostle in Leesburg traveled to St. Mark to join us.

The next Alpha series will begin on September 30th at 7:00pm in the Cassidy Activity Center beginning with "Is there more to life than this?" We are launching a Small Group session that will

be held in the lower level of the church beginning after the meal. We are excited to provide an opportunity for those who have been through Alpha several times to continue their faith formation together. Karen Asta, Bern Diederich, Jerry Belt

Funeral Receptions: No September report. Denise Argote

Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council): No September update. Mike Churma

Le Cercle Francais: Conversational French group. Jody Allen and Donna Deeley

Lenten Soup Suppers: Paused until Lent 2025.

Men's Group: Focuses on fellowship, formation, and prayer. Jeff Jamison

MOMs Ministry: Inactive.

Movie Night Ministry: The new season of family-friendly monthly movie nights returned on September 13 with the screening of Kung Fu Panda 4. There were 46 attendees, and Fr. Peter stopped by briefly to check out how this ministry works. Our next Movie Night will be Friday, October 18. The movie will be Inside Out 2, a heartwarming coming-of-age tale about the challenges of growing up and learning to be who you are meant to be. Come enjoy the movie and some ice cream! Andrea Kramer

Newcomers' Committee: The Newcomers' Luncheon is excited to host an event Sunday, October 27th following 11:00 Mass. Father Peter will be joining us to meet the new parishioners. Susan Heard

Pastoral and Care Team (PACT): Sub-group of Eucharistic Ministers who bring the Eucharist to homebound parishioners. Bill Grossman

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

Peace and Justice Committee (PJC): Not meeting. No chairperson.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: continues to make shawls, lap blankets, hats, scarves, baby blankets and preemie hats to donate to the shelter, nursing home and the Giving Tree in the coming cold months. A new member joined our group this month. We are very happy. Maria Gillard

Praying College Moms (PCM): have commenced our monthly meetings for the academic year with our first meeting on Tuesday September 10th. Seven of us gathered on the 10th in Room C102 at St. Mark for warm fellowship and prayer. We will meet monthly through May of next year. We spend time sharing challenges and successes of our young adult children and changes in our lives. We will select a book or two to ground our faith conversations. I believe each of us looks forward to this special time together each month. Karen Mullett

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

Remembrance Ministry (RM): The Remembrance Ministry is meeting in September to plan the annual Mass of Remembrance scheduled for Tuesday, November 5. At our meeting, we will choose the readings for the mass and will make recommendations for songs. We will also assign tasks to those who will participate in the mass including readers, ushers, and others. In early October, we will send out Invitations to loved ones of the deceased who will be remembered during the mass. We have lost two members of our team and are seeking new members to take their places. Kathy Kelmelis

Senior Ministry (M&M's): No September update. Ann Shea

Small Communities of Faith now Small Group (SG): No September report. Julie Scott

Welcome and Information Desk: The Information booth continues to be unstaffed but Bill keeps it neat and organized throughout the week and up to date with information prior to each weekend.

D. Worship

TBD

E. Youth. From Jamie Cross

My goal for these programs is that we create opportunities for middle and high school teens to have fun, bond with one another, learn a bit more about their faith, and develop relationships with virtuous Catholic adults who exemplify what it looks like to walk with Christ and who support them as they attempt to do so in their own lives.

Specifically for this fall semester as we revitalize these programs and begin the gradual work of cultivating a community of young disciples, our goal is to get to know the teens of the parish and their friends and families, so we have a better idea of how to minister to them. Our main goal echoes St. John Bosco's words: "They must know that they are loved." By the Lord, by the church, by we the adult leaders. And our goal is to have a lot of fun while we do it :

Summer Events

-CYC - Wednesday meetings - 2 with 5 - 8 teens

-High School WorkCamp, 8 teens

-Steubenville Trip, 2 teens

-St. Mark Olympics, 3 teens

Future Event Approx. Projections Now thru October

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- 9/27 Middle School Kickoff, 140 teens
- 9/29 High School Pizza With the Pastor, 20 teens and 10 parents
- 10/4 MS Night, 10 teens
- October HS Night, 10 teens
- 10/18-20 Boys' Confirmation Retreat, 38 teens
- 10/25-27 Girls' Confirmation Retreat, 35 teens
- 10/27 Rally, 7 high school teens
- October WorkCamp Information Meeting, 10 teens & 5 parent

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