

St. Margaret Mary Pastoral Council Meeting

Date: January 24, 2023

Attendance: Fr. Arpee, Fr. Greg, Bruce Coughlan, Christina Mines, Rose Del Grosso, Mary Luciani, Sarah Mandarano, Mario Salvatore, Kim Drotar, Edna Moreno

1. Updates from most recent Liturgy Committee meeting
 - Doors between the narthex and the church will be closed 30 minutes before all Masses to support those in silent prayer and encourage reverence for the sacred space
 - Posting a sign encouraging silence could be helpful
 - Ushers to monitor the doors before Masses and explain to any who ask why all the doors are closed
 - Clergy to share reasoning to the congregation with compassion, to avoid sending unintended sentiments of exclusivity or discouragement of community activity
 - Gathering and encountering one another is encouraged, and space should be provided for that to happen outside of the church proper (e.g. in the Hearth Room)
 - Closing all the doors may lead to doors swinging open and shut due to ventilation – this can be looked into.
2. Posting of information of Parish Council members and minutes
 - A list of Parish Council members will be posted on the bulletin board with the parish mission statement and the most recent meeting minutes below, approved by the clergy
 - Minutes will be available as printed copies and on the parish website
 - We will not collect information for a written report on all the parish's ministries; rather the leaders of each (major?) ministry will be invited to future Parish Council meetings to share answers to the following questions: 1) Share with us a brief update on the ministry. Please choose 2 to 3 highlights to present to the group. 2) How does the ministry see themselves cooperating with the Pastoral Plan of the parish? 3) How can the Parish Council be of prayerful support of the ministry at this time? We welcome practical suggestions that will encourage ministerial development and outreach.
3. Parish website updates
 - Website is beautiful and very close to going live
4. Discussing ways to improve our parish bulletin
 - Fr. Arpee will look into printing the bulletin ourselves rather than through a third party, which will allow for more control over layout and schedule. If we go ahead with printing our own bulletin, we will strive for a consistent layout where each ministry/section has an area on the page that they can fill each week.
 - Decrease font size to 11 and minimize blank space and pictures to include more content
 - Ideas for content: resources/catechesis for families, sharing of Diocesan resources (e.g. pieces from monthly update, virtual learning and enrichment opportunities), possibly a series on the Mass.
 - This would be a nice idea, particularly for the bulletin if it was produced by the parish.
 - These changes to the bulletin will require lots of help, e.g. coordinating and collecting from advertisers, etc.
 - The council considered adding lector/altar server/extraordinary minister schedule to bulletin, but decided against; Sheila will call volunteers a couple days before the weekend to confirm attendance.
5. Looking forward and planning as necessary / other business to be discussed
 - Clergy will reach out to schools expressing a need for altar servers
 - Living with Christ (along with Living Faith booklets) will likely replace The Word Among Us booklets, which follow a slightly different liturgical calendar. This way Mass readings and meditations are retained.
 - Fundraising for a parishioner's own mission trip to be scheduled in the church calendar (speaking at all Masses one weekend).
6. Consideration of a youth group
 - Fr. Arpee/Fr. Greg to invite Nicole McCowell (Hamilton Diocese Director of Youth Ministry) to future parish council meeting to share resources and explore the possibility of a strategic plan for youth ministry at St. MM

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 following the 7 PM Mass