

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025

Present: Fr. Robert Barnell, Patrick Parris, Kate Brockman, Jake Kerger, Debbie White, Victor Khannausa, Helen Walters, Karen O'Rourke, Jose Vega

Absent: Dan Young

Fr. Robert opened the meeting at 6:30 with prayer.

The November meeting minutes were updated and approved.

Pastor's Update:

Fr. Robert stated nothing major. Building and Grounds is involved in working on the sound system because the mics are cutting in and out. A suggestion for the interim is to turn on the speakers in the Gathering Space and open the doors to the church to allow the sound to flow in.

Fr. Robert asked the Athletic Director, Jose Vega, to update us on the Family Fun Sundays starting this Sunday, February 2. This event will be after the 10:30 a.m. Mass starting about 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. for children ages JK to grade 6. Students in grades 7 and older will be used as coaches and helpers. The purpose is to bring the children to mass and to also promote a sense of community. The older students will help and cheer on the younger students. The activities will include drills and/or games, followed by a scrimmage. This will be held outside, weather permitting, or in the gym. For the kick-off this Sunday, Rich Ballard, a professional soccer player, will give instruction to the kids. The University of Louisville Ice Hockey Team will be coming on March 9. Jose plans to have a guest person or group each month. These people will come for free. All they ask is to be promoted. So far, Jose has not received many RSVPs, but is hopeful for a good turnout. Currently this is being promoted through the school, the parish, and Band App. There are plans to create the imaging for the Kiosk and Facebook. The best promotion will be word of mouth. Safe Environment Training will be needed for those who work with the children.

Fr. Robert is interested in recognizing the players and teams at Mass.

The concession renovations still need final approval. Hopefully work will take place between April and July before volleyball starts.

Fr. Robert led a discussion about when to introduce Cross Catholic to the Parish. Patrick said he will reach out to see if someone would come in and present it to the parish or send a recording to explain it.

Fr. Robert asked if anyone had comments about the Christmas Mass schedule. It was decided to keep Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.

Collections went up and we met our budget. This is thanks to the speakers from the Parish Council who spoke at each of the Masses.

Theresa Garrett, our Business Manager, is retiring on April 15. Nancy Marx, our current bookkeeper, will take her place. There are 7-10 applicants for the part-time bookkeeper. Interviews will be in the next 2 weeks.

Patrick also reported the search is still on for the Summer Camp Director and Afterschool Care. The applicant pool has increased. We are reviewing contracts with an HR Agency in hopes they may have an applicant.

IGiveCatholic Update: Ascension received enough in donations to replace the surface of the small playground. The analytics showed there was a decrease from the \$26,000 raised in 2023 to \$21,000 raised in 2024. Even though our communications efforts were doubled. The number of donors dropped from 110 to 101, but the average donation amount increased. Social Media presence was there. Ascension was not the only parish to see a drop. There was a discussion about a possible survey to get input from the parish.

There was a discussion about Ascension's 60th Anniversary and if we should celebrate it, and how and when. This will be revisited at the next meeting on March 25.

Committee Updates:

School Board: These are from December meeting since the January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

- The review of the Accreditation Report was completed.
- Catholic Schools' week is schedule for January 26 – 31. Refreshments will be served after the Saturday and Sunday Masses.
- Open House is scheduled for January 28 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The School Board ordered two new large double-sided banners to be placed in high-traffic areas.
- The Marketing committee requested ideas from the School Board.
- Ideas included potential places for advertisements.
- Social media idea was a monthly Alumni highlights on Facebook.
- Car magnets have been requested. Mandy is looking into this. The first quote received was too high.

Building and Grounds: Tony Forns reported work is being done on the concession stand project.

- The budget, cost projections, and timeline will be presented to the Finance Committee on Wednesday, January 29 for their approval.
- Also hoping to get approvals from the Parish Council, Fr. Robert, the Athletic Board and finally the Archdiocese. We are expecting to gain all approvals, order the materials, and to start work on April 1.
- Total projected expenses are \$78,117.48. Tony states he is still trying to reduce the expenses.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 25. A June meeting is TBD.

Fr. Robert closed the meeting at 8:10 with prayer.

