

St. Mark Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes
27 Oct, 2016

Meeting Time: 7pm
Location: The Cenacle

Prayer Leader: John
Refreshments: Donna

Scripture/Shared Prayer: John

Roll Call– Present: Father Todd, Deacon Tom, Donna Kern, Nathan Campbell, Wilma Cross, Teresa Wenzel, David Olivares, Bill Sherman, Don Toll, John Hibner.

Ministry Presentation – Representative from Catholic Charities was unable to attend. Possible rescheduling for future meeting.

School Commission –

Jessica Ohime presented the school report to the council. School Commission last meeting took place on 18Oct16. The idea of doing a monthly update in the bulletin on whats taking place at the school, and doing a coffee and doughnuts between the parish and the school was discussed. Also to assist those parents who are still learning the English language, it was discussed putting school to parents letters online with recordings of the letters in different languages. It was also discussed about providing interpreters for parents at parent teacher conferences. To help build improve communication among school families it was discussed about the possibility of doing a board game night for the families once per quarter, creating a class room directory, and trying to get existing St. Mark families to assist with welcoming and orientating new St. Mark families. The school is continuing to look at ways to increase the use of technology in the school. The school has opened its computer lab after school on Tuesdays for those students who do not have access to computers at home. St. Mark school is looking at an additional first and third grade for the next school year, with letters going out to families in November to ask about their intent to enroll their child at St. Mark for the next school year. St. Mark will also begin reaching out to parents who have had their child Baptized at St. Mark this past year about possible enrollment of their child at St. Mark when the child is old enough.

Finance Commission –

The overall budget for St. Mark is ahead of projections for the year. Collections are around 6 thousand dollars behind projections for the year. Business Manager Kevin Sweeney has excepted a position with the Dioceses of Lafayette.

The minutes were approved as presented.

Good of the Parish –

Concerns were bought to the council that parishioners are having difficulty hearing the mass over the speaker system. Problem will be taken to Andy Eagan to see if an adjustment to the speaker system can be made to address the problem.

The possibility of hand sanitizer being made available for the Eucharistic Ministry during mass to be discussed at the next liturgical meeting.

Council will be discussing possible ways for the parish to celebrate the feast day of St. Mark the Evangelist in 2017.

Wilma Cross will be discussing with the Welcoming and Hospitality Ministry on ways they can better work together to welcome new members. Discussions on ways the parish as a whole can create a more welcoming environment to new parishioners and ways the parish can better get new parishioners involved with the parish community.

The arrival of Fr. David who will be ministering to the Burmese communities on the south side of Indy at St. Mark and north side of Indy at St. Pius is moving forward on schedule.

Old Business –

Father Todd updated the council of the purchase of new chairs with arms for the church. The frames have been ordered and when they arrive the existing upholstery will be added. The church will see about recruiting additional members to help out with the Hospitality Ministry. It was suggested to see if the Hospitality Ministry would have time to make sure chairs are lined up correctly in-between masses.

Ann Berkemeier is working on putting together a list of candidates for the recognition plaque to go up in Schafer Hall.

The installation of the St. Joseph shrine has been completed. A blessing for the shrine will take place once the dedication stone is ready to be installed. Future Eagle Scout project for a new flag pole for the school is in the planning stage.

David Olivares will be joining as the Council representative to the committee that Ann Berkemeier is forming to discuss either developing a data base or using a service web data base browser that St. Mark will be able to use to better help its parishioners become more involved in the parish community.

200 members from the south side parishes joined the Knights of Columbus in traveling to the cathedral. Father Todd will get in contact with Father Joe to see if he has a printed copy of his talk on the prodigal son for those parishioners who were unable to attend.

New Business –

The Council reviewed the 2015 to 2016 Hopes and Dreams that had been submitted. Under the Spiritual Growth category the council had looked at creating opportunities for retreats and speakers to take place at St. Mark, increasing support for vocations, and working to better promote the marriages taking place St. Mark. Also starting in 2017 a blessing prayer for couples at the start of their engagement will be available. Under the Outreach category the council looked at doing a “Welcome Home Program” to run during the Lent season to help bring estranged Catholics back into the church community and looked at ways St. Mark could better work together with its sister parishes of St. Roch and St. Barnabas on the south side of Indianapolis. Under the Parish Life category the council looked at ways to better keep the St. Mark website updated, looked at adding a part-time director of communications for the parish, creating and installing a For the Good of the Parish suggestion box,

and the parish need for additional music ministry.

The Council reviewed the 2016 to 2017 Hopes and Dreams that had been submitted. Father Todd will create categories for them and the council at the November/December meeting will begin to discuss and create an action plan towards completing them.

David Olivares will be working on editing the council pictures to make them ready for publication to the parish.

Thank you cards were discussed and will be signed by PC members for:

Committee Reports:

Youth Report –

27 high school students are preparing for Confirmation. St. Mark will be sending 16 to the ICYC . Plans are being worked out for a south deanery youth rally. 2Dec16 will be the Middle School Christmas Dance.

Social Life –

The Frank and Beans had a participation of 85 parishioners. Bingo Bash will be taking place on 19Nov16.

Liturgy –

The Advent Sunday evening program is as follows. 1st Sunday evening will cover the different Liturgical Seasons throughout the church year. 2nd Sunday evening will be a presentation on the different parts of the Mass and their relation to scripture. 3rd Sunday evening will be a Bible 101 discussion. 4th Sunday evening will be the St. Mark Holy Season Concert.

Spiritual Life-

The Men's Bible Study group had between 12 and 20 participants. 50 St. Mark parishioners participated in the pilgrimage to St. John, IN for the Way of the Cross. There will be a memorial service on 06Nov16 for all St. Mark parishioners who have lost family members this year. The RCIA currently has 14 participants.

Upcoming Events –

- 卅 30Oct2016: High School Choir to perform at 11:45am Mass
- 弍 05Nov2016: St. Mark holiday Craft Fair
- 參 06Nov2016: ICYC at the Indiana State Fair Grounds
- 四 06Nov2016: Memorial Prayer service for deceased family members of St. Mark
- 伍 18Nov2016: 20Nov2016: Being and Belongs taking place at Lady of Fatima
- 六 19Nov2016: St. Mark Bingo Bash
- 七 13Nov2016: School Pancake Breakfast.

Pastor Comments

New guidelines for the rite of marriage will begin in 2017.

Closing Prayer - John

Reminders

- 吉 Next Meeting – 01Dec2016
- 式 Prayer Leader – David
- 参 Refreshments – John H.