

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting
Nov. 17, 2021

Present were:

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)
Al Flores (Chair)
Lis Soto (Secretary)
Donnie Victorick

Dennis Hoffman
Anna Damian
Michael Alexander
Lorian Dusek

Donna Hanus
Christina Robertson
Leanne Southerland

Absent:

Matt Rice

Opening Prayer led by Father Brian 6:05 p.m.

Team Building Exercise

Michael A. taught the group about team communication. We paired up and practiced listening, repeating what we heard and responding appropriately in a disagreement.

The exercises were adapted from the book The Five Dysfunctions of a Team by Patrick Lencionio.

Ministries Update

Father Brian reported about school: enrollment is at 330 students. The football team made play-offs and the volleyball team is possibly going to state. A/C repairs in the Elementary gym are complete.

Two RE programs are running simultaneously: 1) classroom model and 2) family faith formation groups. One challenge is to welcome families who are joining mid-semester, as they slowly return after Covid closures.

About 100 people attended the All Souls Day mass at the cemetery in Bryan. Weekly donation is strong staying around \$27,000 to \$30,000.

St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving and Christmas drives are underway. This is a great way for new parishioners to become active in service and connect with others.

Age Managers, for those age 60 or older, is expecting over 100 attendees at next event.

Speaker, Don Peshek, will discuss pastoral care for the sick and invite more participation in Eucharistic Ministry to the home bound. Update on Msgr John McCaffrey after his car accident. He is receiving special treatment for his eyes and still recovering from a broken sternum.

Father Adrian has returned from visiting his family in Zambia. Mass and penance schedules for the holidays were announced. The book Life is Messy, by Matthew Kelly will be distributed at Christmas masses 2021.

Daily devotional programs for Advent were discussed. Fr. Brian will research to see which one to recommend to our parish this Advent 2021.

New Business

Fr Brian invited the council to bring up any concerns they had. Christrina R. suggested a cash app, like Venmo, for ease in giving donations. Lis S. asked about devotions offered at St. Joseph Church. A list of current devotions such as Rosaries, Divine Mercy, Miraculous Medal,

and Novenas, will be listed in the church bulletin to improve awareness. Michael A. suggested coordination of the different book studies currently going on. Lis also requested that priests mention the upcoming funerals after masses. Lis also suggested that Father Brian add in catechesis tidbits to the mass, when possible, to explain why we do certain things in the mass.

Plans for Alpha

The Pastoral Council discussed the logistics of running the first Alpha program at St. Joseph Church beginning on January 9th, 2022. The weekly program will meet on Sundays at 6:30pm until March 20th. We are expecting about 50 participants, including ministry leaders. Each meeting will have a meal, a speaker, a video and a discussion. Pastoral Council members were assigned duties: Main Alpha coordinators are Leanne S., Anna D. and Christina R. Food will be arranged by Al F. MC will be Michael A. Hosts who facilitate discussions are Dennis H., Donna H., Anna D., and Leanne S. Helpers who care for guests are Donnie V., Lorian D., Matt R. and Christina R. Lis S. will not be able to attend at this time. Music suggestions were Taylor Schroll or Collin Glorioso. Target date to open registration online is Dec. 8th, 2021. There will be a pulpit announcement inviting the parish and ministry leaders will be contacted individually. Alpha will be offered again. The goal is to continue offering it so all parishioners can experience Alpha. At our next council meeting on Dec. 15th, we will “walk through” the first Alpha meeting scheduled for January 2022.

Process of Missionary Discipleship

We discussed the possible ways to introduce the Christian Growth Cycle to the parish. Maybe in conjunction with Alpha or when introducing our mission statement. In future meetings we will solidify our mission statement and discuss how Alpha graduates can flow into other ministries.

Closing Prayer led by Anna Damian.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted by
Lis Soto, Secretary