

St. Mark Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for 10/28/21

Introduction

Meeting held Thursday, October 28, 2021.

Father gave opening prayer

The meeting was held virtually

All members were in attendance: Sean Malone, Dirk Bartram, Paul Sundberg Mary Ann Draye, Pat Riley, Gina Olsen

Review of Minutes

Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed and amended

Minutes have been adopted unanimously and will be published

New Business

1. Fr. Maurer gave updates on parish issues and upcoming events
 - a. Heating – installation of new digital thermostat is working well. Boiler is in good shape but old; would need replacing if issues arise as parts are no longer available.
 - b. Current concern is the electrical status, which is being evaluated now.
 - c. Fr. is looking into possible heat pump in the future.
2. Christmas Schedule has been set and will be published soon. It will be limited due to continued COVID restraints.
 - a. Choir – Greg Teeter is working on program: can only have 3 cantors and no parish community singing allowed during any religious ceremony.
3. Lectors are still needed. Fr. is looking for a volunteer to coordinate schedules and training.
4. Ushers – all must meet church requirement for “safety training” and background checks. New sessions starting soon.
5. Vacant Position – Fr. is evaluating what position’s responsibilities will be and will rename it accordingly
6. Council Meetings – Fr. will need to move meetings to a different Thursday after December due to schedule conflict. Council voted to increase our meeting time to 1.5 hours. Council will now meet from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Synod Process

Majority of meeting was spent trying to discern parish and council’s role in Pope Francis’s Synod Process and Archbishop Etienne’s Pastoral Planning as well as our own council mission. There will be an Archdiocese-wide program and all parishes are encouraged to participate. Parish will need to have 1-3 parish leaders to represent St. Mark and act as liaisons. Fr. will reach out to 2 people council thought might be good as well as others that would meet parish needs. If St. Mark cannot engage at least 2 people, it has the option of pairing with a sister parish. Parish representatives will need to have strong leadership and communication skills as well as strong, engaged faith.

Evangelism

Council also discussed how to begin to engage in the Synod idea of evangelization that will best serve St. Mark. Questions include the following:

- “How can we get people back to church now that COVID is declining?”
- “How can we promote enthusiasm and engagement of our faith?”
- “How can we communicate with the general public and to the younger generation?”

Future Dreams and Goals

Council outlined ideas to reflect on and return with at next meeting:

1. Define our mission
2. Bring ideas for ways to evangelize
3. Ways to encourage and inform our parish community

Next meeting: November 18, 2021 @ 6:30 PM.