

St. Mark Pastoral Council Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: Dec. 12, 2024 7:00 PM

Member	Present
Fr. Adam Zajac (Pastor)	Present
Cari Foster (Chair)	Present
Dan Brennan (Vice-Chair)	Present
Laura Meisterics (Secretary)	Absent
Karen Cocita (Principal)	Present
Christine Gunn (Assistant Principal)	Absent
Meaghan McCarthy-Silver (Pastoral Associate)	Absent- (Leading Advent Lectio Divina)
Carrie Shaw	Present
Sarah Beirne	Present
Dan True	Present

Opening Prayer:	Fr Adam
Commission Updates	
Education	<p>-Eucharistic Adoration last Friday, many students had family members stop in to pray during their assigned time</p> <p>-Father/Daughter dance was last Friday with 185 girls and their ‘dates’ in attendance</p> <p>-Christmas play “<i>When Jesus was born</i>” Will be performing tomorrow @1:00 and 6:30 pm. Program features PreK-Gr. 2 children, our school choir, musicians, and stick Drama group. At the performances, our student</p>

	<p>Entrepreneur Club will be selling ornaments they created in the STREAM lab to mark the 75th anniversary, as well as stickers they designed. Proceeds raised will continue to fund future projects.</p> <p>-Donations are coming in of new or gently used coats to be donated to One Hope, organized by two alumni (now at St. Ignatius), many coats have been coming in to be donated.</p> <p>- Letters for Santa mailbox outside school until next Friday, the 20th. Breakfast with Santa is this Saturday, the 14th.</p> <p>-8th graders have two more fundraisers for DC trip. The next one is a Dine to donate, Dec. 18 (Wednesday) at Dante's Pizza from 4-8 pm. Dec. 20 Parent's night out movie night</p> <p>-classroom Christmas parties on Dec. 20th in the afternoon, the last day of school before break</p> <p>-Life Act was here to present on suicide prevention for grades 5-8, They will also present on stress management to students grade 5-8.</p> <p>-Ohio revised Code requires emergency plan be practiced quarterly, practice AED procedures with teachers. There are 6 AED devices on campus, including in the church and STREAM lab.</p>
Spiritual Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roughly 25 people came to first Advent Lectio Divina, were interested. - With Advent so close to Thanksgiving this year, made it challenging to advertise the advent offerings. - Initial discussions about Lent have begun - First reconciliation on 11/23 went well. - Confirmation sessions happening on Sunday between masses - One child part of OCIA, was accepted into the new Catechumenate - One adult received into full communion - 2 teenagers coming in during the Easter vigil
Social Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advent giving tree- focuses on gifts for individuals that have been requested. - 8th grade had a successful food collection for thanksgiving. - Habitat house blessing coming up - Each grade in the school will get up to 100.00 for kids to earn by reading books and reporting on the books, then they are given a room they can purchase things for the room with the money they earn for reading the books

Liturgy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liturgical minister formation night on Dec. 19 @ St. Mel's with Evening prayer and then a presentation from Sarah Franks and Cari Foster on their experiences at the Eucharistic Congress - Moved the 10 pm Christmas mass to St. Mel's - First Friday adoration has poor attendance, but the family holy hour is strong. Adoration will stay with the school. For the parish, adoration will move to be an hour with solemn opening at 4 pm, and closing benediction at the end. - If people want to go later, St. Mels' is open for prayer in front of the Tabernacle every weekday - The Revised <i>Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass</i> says it should be a solemn experience, perpetual adoration is really more for religious orders - Poor Clares have 24/7 perpetual adoration, people can always go there if they are looking for some time of adoration
Evangelization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Faith Formation project with NCCL is ongoing. - Parent survey was completed, still waiting on the data from NCCL - 2 parents came to the parent café. - Team has a meeting on Saturday to talk about parent café and ideas. - January is the first regional meeting at St. Noels with the other parishes also working on the project - Spring is info gathering and drafting, then implement the ideas in the fall
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Still waiting on Pastoral letter from Bishop Malesic, which supposedly was coming sometime in Advent - Waiting to see if it makes sense to offer time to read through both the Bishop's letter and Pope Francis's most recent encyclical together or separately
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jubilee year- Pilgrims of Hope- focus on pilgrimage. In the diocese about 12 parishes have been designated as pilgrimage spots to encourage people to visit. Rome offers indulgences for this. Waiting for the diocese to produce the brochure/advertising around the pilgrimages. - Wait until spring to push, when it's a little bit warmer. - different groups within the parish (like the Markers, the youth group, etc) can be encouraged to participate in the pilgrimage to different churches. - Pope Francis has been talking a lot about Peace in the world - Minor renovations for the sanctuary area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - over 80% of people who filled out the survey are in favor of the painting of St. Mark to come down from behind the altar and the crucifix to go back above the tabernacle. -Henninger's can take the painting to sell on consignment - Working with Henningers to redo the backgrounds of Mary and Joseph, looking at the slats at the back of the Church. - Lighting needs to be updated -10% of cost to the poor- West Side Catholic Center or Catholic Charities, etc. -Henningers will create digital renderings, then the office for Worship will approve, then go through funding sources at the Diocese if necessary, -Probably looking at 2026, using WeGive Catholic in 2026 to fundraise for it - Districts have become deaneries, which has started up again, as the Deanery manager is back to full health - two goals of deaneries: 1. Fix local problems; 2. Collaboration- around things like a pastoral plan for region- like an advent and lent penance service - Our deanery is the near west side of Cleveland parishes (Lakewood, Westpark and Old Brooklyn parishes)
Open Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question about additional priest help - Led to a discussion about the lack of priests and how priests having more than 1 parish is becoming more of the norm. - Deacons are also in short supply - Parish is lucky to have Meaghan as the pastoral minister to help share the load, especially with sacraments. - Fr. Gary is nearing retirement, when Fr. Tim Roth returns from his studies in Rome. - When Fr. Gary retires, the mass schedule needs to change to be doable for one priest. This will probably be sometime in 2026, but decision will come before mass intentions are starting to be booked. - Unlikely the diocese will consider closing parishes

Closing prayer:

Fr Adam

Next Meeting:

Feb. 13, 2025