

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD PARISH

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

September 3, 2024

Present: Fr. Jeff Lucas, Fr. Kyle Seyler, Paulette Widmann, Deacon Ed Horneman, Dianna Armour, Dave Bertram, Annette Lynch, Amy Mosbacher, Ann Nelson, Jesse Sipos, Michael Kloecker

Absent: Sergio Cortes, Anna Mercatoris

Welcome: Paulette Widmann, 6:00 pm

Opening Prayer: Fr. Lucas

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes: Minutes of March 5, 2024 meeting reviewed and approved with one correction. (Amy Mosbacher noted the date of the next council meeting was incorrectly listed as September 2, 2024.) Correction noted and changed.

STATUS/UPDATES:

Evangelization and Adult Formation:

Amy Mosbacher advised calendar of upcoming events subject to change. The process of getting St. Mary's ready for the upcoming programs is ongoing and anticipated to be completed within the next 2 weeks. New

programs are The Chosen, September 10, 2024, with Deacon Ken Reisenweber and Theology Uncorked, September 18, 2024, with Fr. Lucas, now taking registrations. Amy reported that she is doing something different with a program, Franciscan at Home, an online home workshop, containing 5-8 segments. Learning session to be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This will be a day of discussion with prayer time and reflection. Franciscan at Home is geared towards helping people teach the faith. This can be accessed online through the Church website under Faith Formation. Also mentioned by Amy was the program of Catholics Returning Home to begin on September 17, 2024.

Religious Education:

Fr. Jeff read from a writeup from Sergio Cortes concerning the start up of the youth faith formation. First day of class is September 15, 2024, at St. Mary's Center. The youth group is meeting biweekly starting September 24, 2004. Fr. Kyle has been very active with the youth programs including the Outreach on Wednesday. The high school mission trip was a success with 18 to 20 kids in attendance. Four family days are planned for each semester. The discussion of the fundraising with the Erie youth group in the future will be determined. The amount of money raised from the prior fundraising was \$14000. Fr. Jeff will discuss with Sergio a possible fundraising option to assist people in a "home maintenance program" during the fall.

Facilities Maintenance/Improvements

Jesse Sipos reported that the doors are to be replaced very soon by Meadville Plate Glass. He reminded that the doors need to be closed to assure they lock. It was suggested that a note be placed above the sink

to remind the ushers and others to check the doors. He will discuss this issue with Meadville Plate Glass for possible adjustments to the doors. Masonry is approximately two thirds of the way completed. Thrush Concrete is completing the work this fall which includes point and power washing. The operation of the fountain at St. Mary's, is restarting soon. The lighting on the fountain was discussed and possible costs. Demolition of the St. Mary's Rectory will be completed by Wilkinson Excavating at a cost of \$47,000. The utilities are in the process of being removed, these need to be done prior to the company beginning. All items from the rectory are being removed and stored at the St. Brigid social hall, this will include the Christmas decorations from the rectory basement. A suggestion was made for a possible garage sale of excess items. Suggested dates discussed but nothing decided. The value of the items from the rectory was reviewed by an auctioneer and determined there remains nothing of exceptional value.

Jesse stated that he was contacted by the bell inspector discussing the condition of the bells at St. Agatha. Upon inspection it was deemed that the bells should not be used as they are in bad shape and pose a possible fire hazard. (dates of the bells are 1855 and 1879). Fr. Jeff asked Jesse to obtain estimates of options to restore or replace which would include electronic option. Jesse will be in touch with the company by email to obtain all possible options.

Fr. Jeff advised that the dormers in the guest room were fixed. He also advised that the damage in the sacristy was completed, and gutters are being worked on.

Seton School Update:

On behalf of Christine Hess, Seton School Principal, Fr. Jeff provided her report.

Principal's Report for Pastoral Council - 9/3/24

Current Enrollment 2024-2025– 144 students (118 in K-8 & 26 in preschool) - Preschool - one full-time & one part-time on M, W, F - ½ days

Numbers are down this year, but some of the losses came from families moving out of the area and from some students going to the middle school - MAMS. We also may get some more preschool students as the fall progresses. We also have only 2 aides instead of 3 this school year and our preschool teacher is only working part-time on M, W, F (7:30-12:30). This should help with some of the loss of tuition money.

New Teachers Hired for 2024-2025 – We have hired a new part-time preschool teacher (M, W, F from 7:30 -12:30) for 2024-2025. **Beth Erdley**, an experienced, retired teacher has taken the position. She has many years of experience teaching young children. **Aaron White**, has been hired to teach Gr. 6 and Gr. K-4 Technology. He has some former experience with middle school students with a specialty in teaching Science and Social Studies. He also has many additional skills that we can use at Seton - Master Gardener, musician, former EMT and volunteer firefighter. We have also hired a new part-time Art teacher and Guidance Counselor. **Suzanne Lawlor** has both of these certifications, and she is also an experienced, retired teacher who will be an asset to Seton.

Seton is still **in need of a part-time Health and Physical Education teacher**. Emily Lutheran has taken a full-time position in Health/PE in an area public school. She had been a dedicated and talented employee for 15 years, and she will be missed.

Some future events that we're looking forward to at Seton Include:

French Creek Clean Up - 9/7/24 - Community Service

**Seton XC Invitational - 9/20/24 - 4:30 p.m. Registration - 5:20 Start -
At Allegheny College**

Halloween Parade - 10/31/24 - 1:15 p.m.

Dueling Pianos - 11/8/24 - Seton Fall Fundraiser

Please continue praying for Seton.

Pastorial Planning:

Fr. Jeff advised that the Diocese needed more information from him to disseminate relegation of St. Brigid Church. He anticipates a meeting this month with Bishop Persico to finalize the process and allow preparation of the building to obtain funds for the renovation of St. Mary's. We are "waiting on the Lord".

Fr. Jeff discussed his upcoming program Theology-Uncorked Class, "God and the Human Journey with Him" He worked all summer putting this class together. Paulette again spoke highly of Fr. Jeff's class and encouraged attendance.

Fr. Kyle stated that he remains active in the youth ministries with Sergio and is present at Seton School activities.

Fr. Kyle discussed the plan for Forty Hours Devotion in late October. Fr. Dan Hoffman will be presiding over the three-day devotion. Invitations have been sent out to other priests to attend. He will work with Amy on the liturgies.

Council will next meet on November 5, 2024 (election day), this will be a joint council meeting with St. Hippolyte. This will be held at St. Agatha's.

Paulette stated that an Ad Hoc meeting may occur prior to this if the Diocese council affirms the determination of St. Brigid Church.

Emergency Response Plan:

Paulette reports that Sue Kelly has not been available.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Paulette thanked and congratulated Michael Kloecker on a successful parish picnic.

Paulette reports that two positions on the council ended. Ann Nelson agreed to stay on. This leaves open positions on the council. Recruiting of new members will begin. Fr. Jeff will announce from the pulpit the open positions on council. Paulette advises there are three open positions. She stated that when the plan is finalized for St. Brigid; she will be resigning her position.

Dave Bertram inquired about the air conditioning within St. Agatha's as it appears there has been issues during Mass times. Fr. Jeff stated it depends on the day/season. There has been an issue with the programmable remote. He will remind the sacristans to turn on the air. Michael Kloecker will review the manual to ensure the program on the remote is correct. It is a work in progress.

Open Forum:

It was discussed that Deacon Ed Horneman will oversee the Narcan dispensing due to his medical background. Training for ushers and Sergio was discussed.

Ann Nelson asked about providing sign-up ministry sheets so the new parishioners coming in from other closing churches may register. Amy states there can be announcements made at Mass and placed in the bulletin. Further discussion also included a registration form for new members coming into the parish. It will be worked on and direct new members to contact the parish office.

Paulette asked about the use of the crucifix that was once at the altar at St. Agatha's. Fr. Jeff advised that he had it removed since it was leaning and looked bad at the altar. It needs fixed. A company that repairs these will be contacted. Michael stated he may have a family member that may help with this issue.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Kyle