



**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2017**

PPC Members, Ex-Officio Members and Liaisons present: Karen Brackman, Fr. Marc Sherlock, Greg Andrews, Matt Sinning, Matt Watercutter, Beth Linsenmeyer, Rick Monnier, Jim Kueterman, Mike Stucke, Teri Iveron, Chuck Wright and Kim Yoder.

Absent: Gary Chafin, Mary Chafin, Treva Monnier, Adam Grieshop and Judy Kleman Leshner

Hospitality: Hospitality for the evening was provided by Karen Brackman.

Adult Faith Formation: Mike Stucke presented the adult faith formation, which led to discussion pertaining to Mike's question in his faith formation as to what one thing each of us could do to invite/welcome people into the parish. Mike suggested praying that more people attend Mass. Father suggested pointing out the positive things that people are doing in the parish. Beth reinforced Father's point that others need to know what exciting things are happening. Matt Sinning supported this by using the Right to Life trip as an example. Matt Watercutter suggested inviting just one person to volunteer more. Chuck suggested treating one another with respect and honor. Matt Sinning suggested inviting people back to church or to a social setting held at the church. Kim Yoder cited an article which acknowledges we are all sinners and we help each other through our trials, which reminds us to be accepting and loving to all. That attitude will make others feel less intimidated about returning to church.

Matt Sinning, chairperson, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending, and the meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm.

PPC Minutes: Jim Kueterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting; seconded by Rick Monnier. Motion carried.

Ministry Reports:

No ministry reports were given during this meeting. Mike Drosch was invited to the meeting to update the PPC on projects being carried out in the parish. He was unable to attend.

Liaison Reports:

Youth Representative Report: Adam Grieshop was not in attendance.

Parish Finance Council: Treva Monnier was unable to attend, but Father shared that a representative from the archdiocese had visited St. Johns to review the parish finances and the process used by the staff and council. The process was complete and the representative was pleased with the findings.

Evangelization and Catechesis Commission: Beth Linsenmeyer reported the ECC was very pleased with how the Christmas caroling went in December. She also discussed the report given to the ECC on the Right to Life March some of the parishioners experienced, sharing the trip made a very positive impact on those who

went. She also shared an Alpha Team building meeting was planned for the upcoming Sunday (Feb. 12) to discuss the upcoming Alpha program St. Johns is preparing to implement. Also, Beth shared the ECC also had discussed ideas on how to attract people to our parish as the PPC had in January: Welcome Committee, periodic emails on positive news, ministries contributing ideas/news to share and publishing these in the bulletin, through emails, and on the website. Father added that as a follow up to our discussion in January he had spoken with Kathy Herzog about updating the website and shared that one challenge of keeping the website updated is getting contributions of updated materials. The suggestion was made to remind ministries of this need when they presented at PPC meetings.

Worship Commission Report: Kim Yoder shared the Worship Commission had met on February 7 and also discussed ways to engage people in the parish and challenged the team to come up with ideas on how to enhance the worship experience. One idea they discussed focused on the Triduum starting with trying to build on the Agape dinner. She noted last year's attendance had increased, and the group thought the reason for that may have been artistic posters displayed prior to the event, so they considered advertising the event more in the narthex to make increased contact with parishioners beforehand.

D.E.C. Report: Deacon Chuck updated the PPC on the status of the RCIA program. There are currently 5 active members preparing to receive the various sacraments on the Easter Vigil. He also discussed the Alpha Program reiterating that a training session was to be held on Feb. 12. A group of people from the parish had been invited to attend the training with the goal of introducing them to the program and team-building. Chuck further explained that Alpha is an outreach ministry targeted to the "unchurched." The program helps people to realize the existence of a life bigger than us and to encourage them to associate with a Christian community. The training is an eleven week process, and in order for it to be successful, 15 committed people plus many other volunteers must be willing to be trained and serve in this potentially powerful program. Mike Stucke questioned where it is best to start with a program like this, and Chuck explained they would begin with our own parishioners who seek a deeper relationship with God, and ideally, these people will then become "salespeople" for the program. Chuck shared the Adult Faith Formation Team is working on a timeline for this project, but he is not exactly sure when it will be implemented. He stressed the importance of being fully ready and trained before launching it. He also shared there is a marriage program through Alpha as well, and that the Families in Action group have agreed to run that program. Lastly, Chuck shared that Baptism preps continue, PSR is going well, and the budget planned for PSR is very close to the actual expenditures.

Youth Ministry Report:

Teri Iverson shared the following events:

YOUTH SCHEDULE:

February 11	4:30-7:15 pm	A Night In Italy Fundraising event
February 12	6:00 pm	PSR
February 13		Snow Day Registrations Due
February 15	7:00 pm	J5D Meeting
February 19		NO PSR---President's Day Weekend
February 20		Snow Day at Mad River
February 26	6:00 pm	PSR
March 1-15		Flower Sales Fundraising
March 1	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday
	8:00 pm	YNIA

March 5	6:00 pm	PSR
March 8	7:30 pm	Youth Ministry Commission
March 10	4:30-7:30pm	KC Fish Fry
March 12	6:00 pm	PSR
March 15	7:00 pm	J5D
March 18-19		Confirmation Retreat at Maria Stein
March 19		NO PSR
March 22	7:00pm	Mass and Stations (tentative date)
March 24	4:30-7:30 pm	KC Fish Fry
March 26		NO PSR (Spring Break)
March 27-29	9:00am-noon	Spring Into Service (parish service)
April 2	6:00 pm	PSR
April 5	7:00 pm	YNIA
April 7	4:30-7:30pm	KC Fish Fry



A NIGHT IN ITALY RETURNS!!! Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 11 as this popular fundraising event makes it's second annual appearance!! Last year's event was so popular we ran out of a few things and came dangerously close to running out of everything (the loaves and the fishes miracle 2016 edition?!?) This year's event will prove to be another fun evening complete with spectacular entertainment once again! The menu includes lasagna, spaghetti, meatballs, salad, applesauce, dessert and beverages. In order to help plan, we encourage you to purchase your tickets in advance (and save some money too) after masses starting next weekend or by stopping by the parish office. Ticket prices this year are as follows: Ages 12 and up: \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door, Ages 4-11: \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door, Ages 3 and under: free. Join us for an evening of good food, fabulous entertainment and great fellowship and know you are supporting our youth ministry program as well!!!



SNOW DAY 2017! Yep! And not the kind where school is cancelled! You won't want to be on the outs this year by missing! We'll venture on over to Mad River Ski area for a day of fun, sun, snow, faith and friends! You have the option to ski or tube (or both, if you want)! Even if you've never skied before, you're sure to have a great time!! The February 20 (there's no school that day) trip is open to all in grades 4-12 and the registration deadline is February 13! Forms/more info can be found by the Youth News board or on the parish website! Don't miss it! ***ADULTS NEEDED---must have completed the background check and the virtue training. Without enough adults, we will not be able to go! ☹



COMPASSION PACKS AVAILABLE NEXT WEEKEND! This weekend, our PSR students will assemble compassion packs with all of the items that have been donated. NEXT weekend, we will have them available for you to take! How many of you have ever seen a person at an exit ramp or elsewhere holding a sign asking for money? How many of you are wary of giving cash for fear it will go to alcohol or drugs and then feel guilty for driving by? We've got a way to help! Each person who takes one, should place them under the driver's seat in their car. The next time you come across someone who is asking for help, you can give them the pak, help them, and know that for a brief moment you made a difference in his/her life!

Teri also praised the parishioners who attended the Right to Life March. Although she was ill and unable to attend, the event was very successful. She asked one of the students who went to write an article on her experiences to publish in the Tipp City newspaper. She also is hoping the

students who went will share their experiences with others, resulting in even better attendance next year.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Marc Sherlock pointed out Ash Wednesday would be celebrated on March 1, and after Mass each Wednesday evening throughout Lent (except for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week), parishioners plan to lead the Stations of the Cross. Father has been consulting with the Worship Commission, the PPC, and the office staff about the low attendance. He suggested that more people seem to lack the "sense" that going to Mass is important as many once grew up learning. Also, he has discussed the option of holding just 2 Masses each weekend versus the current 3. His staff and the Worship Commission seem to support the idea more than PPC. Father stressed he is taking this decision slowly but trying to think about the long-term situation after his retirement.

Father also shared that Mike Begley had spoken with him and wanted Father to get the word out that he continues to look for people to house Refugees in the area.

Lastly, Father shared a video provided by Archbishop Schnurr, highlighting six different programs the Catholic Ministries Appeal funds each year. The video was called "Providing a Path."

A significant amount of time was spent in discussion on creating a survey tool that could be used to solicit information on how to increase participation in parish activities, including attendance at Mass. Matt Sinning had compiled sample questions sent to him from various PPC members (see Appendix A). The discussion began with stressing the importance of identifying our specific goal in asking people to complete these surveys. The identified goal became: Why has attendance at St. John's parish dropped? Once the goal was identified, all PPC members evaluated the sample questions, considering the content and the format. The order of the questions was also evaluated. Some of the focus areas, such as Faith Formation and Ministries, were eliminated as not being relevant to the specific goal. The survey will be done through Survey Monkey. The means for getting the information about the survey out to the people was also questioned. Matt Sinning volunteered to speak to people at all Masses, and Greg suggested sharing it with others at PSR. It was also suggested to reach out through email and to offer sending a hard copy of the survey to those who requested that. Before the next meeting, Matt Sinning plans to make the suggested changes to the survey and send it out for the members of the PPC to review. He also plans to develop the tools to administer the survey.

Round Robin: The meeting for the month of April was moved to April 6 because the original meeting date planned was Holy Thursday.

Ministry Report for Next Meeting: The suggestion was made to invite Mike Droesch again to the next meeting and to also invite a representative from the Hispanic Ministry. Jim Kueterman will provide hospitality for the April meeting, Rick Monnier will present Adult Faith Formation, and Father Marc will provide the Closing Prayer of Gratitude.

Matt Sinning closed the meeting with a Prayer of Gratitude.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 PM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 7:15 PM in Room 107.

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/

Karen Brackman sitting in for Mary H. Chafin, Recording Secretary

Appendix A: HEALTH OF OUR PARISH SURVEY

Demographics

1. Male or Female
2. Age
3. Marital Status
 - a. Married
 - b. Single
 - c. Divorced
 - d. Other
4. Number of children and ages

Mass

1. Do you regularly attend mass (2 or more times per month)? Y/N – If no skip to question 8
2. How many times per year do you attend mass?
 - a. 0 - 2
 - b. 3 – 5
 - c. 6 – 10
 - d. More than 10
3. Where do you normally attend (more than ½ the time) mass/service?
 - a. St. John
 - b. St. Christopher – Vandalia
 - c. St. Peter – Huber Heights
 - d. St. Patrick – Troy
 - e. St. Mary & St. Boniface – Piqua
 - f. Transfiguration – West Milton
 - g. Other Catholic Church
 - h. Other non-Catholic church
4. If you attend St. John, which mass do you most often attend?
 - a. 5 pm Saturday
 - b. 8 am Sunday
 - c. 10:30 am Sunday
5. If you attend another parish/church can you tell us what draws you there, or what do you like about the other church/parish (check all that apply)?
 - a. Convenience
 - b. Mass/service times
 - c. Music
 - d. Atmosphere
 - e. Priest/minister
 - f. Ministries
 - g. Parish community
 - h. Parish functions
 - i. Parish school
 - j. Church building
 - k. Church facilities
 - l. Other _____
1. If you do not attend can you tell us why? (Have many choices. We should come up with these together at our next meeting. I believe it gets to the heart of the matter)
 - a. I don't get anything out of Mass
 - b. I don't feel welcome
 - c. I don't know anyone
 - d. No one cares about me

- e. Mass times do not accommodate my schedule
 - f. Too many hypocrites
 - g. Priest is too old to relate (sorry Fr Marc) vs not 25 or 30
 - h. Priest is too young
 - i. Priest is over worked
 - j. Priest is underworked
 - k. No Catholic School
 - l. Catholic beliefs and traditions don't change
 - m. Music is too modern
 - n. Music is too traditional
 - o. Mass is not "entertaining"
 - p. Leadership/Management
 - q. Positions on social justice
 - r. Tithing, hard times
 - s. Position on abortion
 - t. Position on traditional marriage
 - u. Quality of PSR
 - v. Soft preaching on the tough issues of today—father responsibility, splitting of the family, people leaving the church, morality, moral decay, addiction, sex
 - w. Impersonal
 - x. No accountability
2. What is keeping you away (check all that apply)?
- a. Mass times are inconvenient
 - b. Music
 - i. Too modern
 - ii. Too traditional
 - iii. Too loud
 - c. Parish atmosphere
 - d. Parish community/members are not welcoming
 - e. Priest
 - f. Masses are too long
 - g. Don't feel engaged/fed
 - h. The ministries don't match my interest
 - i. Church is too structured
 - j. Too many rules
 - k. I have been hurt or offended by the Church
1. Do you regularly attend mass at St Johns?
- Yes
No
2. What current mass times do you feel are most important to you. Choose all that apply.
- A. 5:00 PM Saturday
 - B. 8:00 AM Sunday
 - C. 10:30 AM Sunday
3. Do you at times attend Mass at another Parish?
- Yes
No
4. If you answered yes to the above question what are the reasons. Choose all that apply.
- A. Mass times at St Johns are not convenient.

- B. Family events and kids sporting activities cause time conflicts.
- C. Masses at the other Parish do more to fulfill my quest for faith.
- D. I do not feel a connection to St John's anymore.

Faith Formation

1. Do you have children attending the PSR classes that are offered within the Parish?
Yes
No
2. Do you feel that the times PSR is offered are best suited for your family's needs?
Yes
No
3. Do you feel that there is enough engagement and planning with youth activities in the Parish?
Yes
No
5. What improvements or ideas do you have to help meet your needs and faith formation?

Ministries

1. Are there ministries or activities that you feel are missing at St Johns?

Communication

1. What do you feel is the most efficient way to receive timely communications from the Parish in regards to activities, news and upcoming events at St John the Baptist Parish?
A Email
B weekly bulletins
C Updated Website
D Facebook
E Other social media example _____

Other

1. What is the one thing we (parish, church, community or priest) could do to make your experience at St. John's more fulfilling?
2. Do you feel welcome by the parish community and priest? Y/N If no, do you have a specific concern or example?
3. What is the one thing we (parish, church, community or priest) could do to make you feel welcome and want to attend mass at St. John's?
4. Do you feel a sense of community and family within the Parish of St John the Baptist?
5. What can St John's do to have you as an active member of our parish?
6. What would motivate you to volunteer in support of a parish activity?
7. What would motivate you to attend a parish activity?

8. What is one area our parish does well?
9. For your personal growth, what is the one area that you would like to see strengthened?
 - a. What can the Parish do to help with that?

Rate each 1 through 4 (1=excellent to 4=needs immediate attention)

Please be candid with anonymous survey and extended responses.

- 1 = Excellent (We are doing exceptional in this area)
- 2 = Adequate (We are average, nothing exceptional, but no real concerns)
- 3 = Needs Attention (We have some concern in this area)
- 4 = Needs Immediate Attention (We are greatly concerned about this area)

Overall, I am a satisfied member of St. John the Baptist Church.
I feel our priest is a strong shepherd and is engaged with his parish.
I would feel proud to invite or bring friends/family to our weekend mass.
The morale of our church is high.
People are generally excited about the future of our parish.
I feel our parish makes a significant difference in **my** relationship with Jesus.

Please rate how well you believe this parish is serving the needs of the following groups of parishioners: (If any of these areas do not apply to you, or you cannot assess them adequately, please circle "NA.")

- PRESCHOOL CHILDREN
- SCHOOL CHILDREN (K-8)
- HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (9-12)
- SINGLE ADULTS
- MARRIED COUPLES
- YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES (NO CHILDREN)
- FAMILIES
- SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES
- WOMEN
- MEN
- AGE 50 AND OVER
- SENIOR CITIZENS (RETIRED)
- PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- NON-CATHOLIC SPOUSES