



**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 12, 2017**

**PPC Members Present:** Matt Sinning, Greg Andrews, Karen Brackman, Gary Chafin, Judy Kleman Leshner, Rick Monnier, Jim Kueterman, Mike Stucke, Matt Watercutter, Beth Linsenmeyer, Teri Iverson, Mary Chafin and Fr. Marc Sherlock.

**Hospitality:** Hospitality for the evening was provided by Matt Watercutter.

**Adult Faith Formation:** Matt Sinning presented the adult faith formation.

Matt Sinning welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending, and the meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

**PPC Minutes:** Greg Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting; seconded by Rick Monnier. Motion carried.

**Ministry Reports:** Susan Sexton and Shari Neilson reported on the Early Childhood Program. We have had a very good response from parish and community. At early registration, there were 54 people waiting in line to enroll. All classes are totally full; there is discussion of adding an additional class. Tuition has been raised by \$10 per month, which still makes St. John's competitively priced. We have added 2 new teachers and 2 new aides. We are now required to do 4 safety lock down drills. In addition we are evaluating adding an alarm and intercom system for more efficient notification of a lock down situation. Officer Rittenhouse is helping with the changes. The staff is required to complete 6 hours of training per year, Child Care Services offer several free classes, teachers are being encouraged to use these classes when possible to control costs. This is a year of transition and new experiences. We are still waiting on the unannounced visit from the state representative. Matt asked whether we have an adequate understanding of the cost of running the ECP. Is the budget realistic? Fr. stated that we are using this year as a learning experience, to gauge whether the budget is adequate, so that future budgeting will cover all expenses, including competitive teacher salaries. Preferred class size is 10 for 3/4s, and 12 for 4/5s. The preschool has a Facebook page to post pics of activities but for safety reasons, no children's faces are posted. Fr. feels that the program has a very good reputation and sells itself.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Parish Finance Council:** There has not been a meeting. The next meeting is 2/2/2017.

**Evangelization and Catechesis Commission:** Beth Linsenmeyer reported that the commission added a new member, Ann Fallert. She also reported that the Stations of the Crib were very well received.

**Worship Commission Report:** No report.

**Youth Representative Report:** No report.

**D.E.C. Report: No report.**

**Youth Ministry Report:** Teri Iverson reported that the Cookie Walk cleared over \$1200 which was fantastic, since there was no bazaar this year and the walk was only 3 hours long. It was chaired by Ann Mays and Carmen Richters.

Discussion took place on which film to show at the next large group session. There are several good choices, so there is a plan for a summer film series to accommodate all film choices.

Senior Mass and Brunch is currently being handled by the catechists. This is a large undertaking, and there was discussion of taking this out of the hands of the catechists, and formulating a committee of junior parents to take different pieces of this event. The commission was favorable toward this new plan, and the catechists have been asked how they would feel about this. Teri is waiting on a response.

Dinner Theatre is currently being planned; Fran Magness will be the director. She has been involved with community theatre, and is volunteering her time. Teri will be formulating a group to head up this event. The event will be held in November, Friday and Saturday night will be a dinner; Sunday will be a dessert show. The name of the play is Nun Crackers.

Teri attended the National Catholic Youth Minister Conference which is held every other year, rotating around the country. There are national speakers, breakout sessions and workshops to attend. Opening, closing and daily liturgies take place. Teri has a speaker in mind to bring to St. John's in the future. Teri felt that this is a rejuvenating time, a time to get away and refresh; to see what is new out there.

Rally for Life is coming up; St. John's has 6 students and 3 adults signed up to go. They will bus to D.C. with the group from the Archdiocese.

Fr. stated that it is hard to get kids to commit to Church activities. Matt said we need to do a better job of promoting youth activity and coordinating events. We need to leverage all media to get the word out; put the info where they are to bring them in. One idea would be to have youth address the congregation about the value of an event; this would possibly entice their friends to join in.

**Pastor's Report:** Mike Donauer has indicated that he wishes to step down as the chair of the Cemetery Committee. Fr. said that Mike has done a great job and wishes to remain on the committee. Dale Voisard has agreed to take over as chairperson.

The weekend census in November and December showed an average of 561 and 578 respectively. Do we really need 3 Masses? Why aren't people coming to Mass? We need a census for starters, people don't inform the parish if they move or change parishes. Fr. stated that if you are a Catholic and live in St. John's area, you are considered a parishioner. We owe it to the parish to ask what /why aren't you attending Mass. Matt has picked up that there is no "buzz, or energy" in our parish family. We need to look long and hard as a parish at how we are leading. Are we all working toward the same agenda? There is no unity of mission/vision, no inspiration for life events. While they may get a lot out of the mass, they need support for other life events. What are we doing to inspire our parishioners in their lives? We are trying to be the best versions of ourselves, but support is needed in different areas. What exactly are people looking for? In our quest for new folks, we can't forget the need to feed our existing folks. Father said the situation is across the board for Catholic parishes, not just St. John's.

