



**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 11, 2018**

**PPC Members Present:** Matt Sinning, Greg Andrews, Karen Brackman, Judy Kleman Leshner, Kathy Catrone, Jim Kueterman, Mike Stucke, Matt Watercutter, Lois Cox, Mary Chafin and Fr. Marc Sherlock.

**Adult Faith Formation:** Mike Stucke 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:** Judy Kleman Leshner made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017 meeting; seconded by Jim Kueterman. Motion carried.

**Ministry Reports:** No reports.

Matt Sinning advised the council that he has been approached regarding the survey. He had an opportunity to see a previous survey that was sent out at the parish. It asked many of the same questions. As a result he shelved the survey and hasn't raised it at the meetings. He saw a bulletin insert that provided the results of the in pew survey that St. Christopher's recently performed. They passed around a card that asked one question of those in attendance "What is your dream for this parish?" Father John reviewed the results of the survey with the parishioners. They got a 40% response rate. Parishioners were asked to complete the card during mass. We need to find out what we can do to "energize" the parish. We should get the information from the people that are attending mass, but want to see change. The beauty of the in pew service is it will identify the "low hanging fruit" of things we can easily change/accomplish. Seeing change can help to build the energy. Giving parishioners a voice is huge.

Matt previewed the idea that the Men's Prayer Group has come up with. They, in conjunction with the Women of Spirit, would like to host a free Fellowship Breakfast tentatively on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month following the 8 am and 10:30 am masses. It is designed to be a social event that is not a fund raiser; there is not a motive other than meeting and breaking bread with fellow parishioners. Sit down with people you do not know. The plan includes the tentative involvement of the Women of Spirit. Mary Chafin reminded everyone that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in February is also the first day of the parish mission.

Mike Stucke asked what the five things are that we could do to "energize" the parish.

Lois Cox brought up the possibility of a parish prayer group that would get together a half hour before mass to pray or say the rosary.

Matt brought up the importance of a personal invitation in order to get people involved.

Mike Stucke described his experience with small group faith sharing at his daughter's church. Feels we need to find a way to create the energy around Christ.

Matt mentioned the ushers not greeting people as they enter church. The men's group has discussed having the ushers asking a family to present the gifts during mass. During the sign of peace people should step away from those around you to greet others in attendance.

How do we make people feel welcome at St Johns?

Greg Andrews asked whether our parish ever tried a summer picnic. Father Marc said when he first arrived there was an annual picnic. It eventually just died down. Greg said that for the five years his family attended St. Paul's parish he was amazed how well their annual picnic was attended. Over a period of time the attendance continued to decline until it was discontinued.

Lois Cox proposed the possibility of an outside mass in order to change the dynamics. It was mentioned that we have an outside mass at the cemetery on Memorial Day. Judy Kleman Leshner mentioned that it could be held in conjunction with "Festival Sunday" since there will already be tents and seating set up.

Judy also mentioned a spaghetti dinner after evening mass when she was in college, to encourage attendance.

There were also discussions about learning masses.

Greg asked about the rate of return of the census mailing. Father Marc advised that the responses continue to come in but the results have not been tabulated yet. The number of responses is low when compared to the parish registry.

Fr. Marc said that one of the goals of the census was to determine how many people still considered themselves members of the parish. A follow up letter will be sent to all the households that have not responded to see if that brings in more replies. People need to be reminded that they need to send in the response even if nothing has changed.

Matt asked that if there are other ideas or suggestions that you pass them along to him.

Matt indicated that the survey cards will be easy to produce. We just need to decide when will be a good time to do it. There seems to be a consensus that it's a good idea we just need to figure out how best to accomplish it.

Lois commented on the "Stations of the Crib" and how beautiful it was. It was unfortunate that during the stations the parents were outside waiting to pick up their children rather than participating.

### **Liaison Reports:**

**Finance Council:** No report.

**Evangelization and Catechesis Commission:** Lois advised that the commission did not have a meeting because it conflicted with the communal penance service. The next meeting will be in February.

**Worship Commission Report:** Father Marc advised that the commission has not met this month.

**Youth Representative Report:** No report.

**D.E.C. Report:** Deacon Chuck Wright provided his report to Matt. Ted and Connie Lehman are close to being able to be baptized hopefully everything will be completed before the Easter Vigil.

The preparations for the Parish Lenten mission, February 18-20, are going well. We should start seeing more about it as it gets closer. It is a family oriented ministry presented by Chris Padgett.

Matt suggested that people follow Chris Padgett on Twitter. The parish mission has been communicated to all seven of our neighboring parishes and it will be put in the newspaper.

Lois suggested we should try to “jazz up” the parish bulletin with more inserts.

**Youth Ministry Report:** Teri Iverson is out sick, so no report.

**Pastor’s Report:** Fr. Marc thanked the council for taking up the Christmas collection for him. He really appreciated it. People were very generous, as they are every year.

Father Marc advised that Easter comes early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine’s Day.

During Lent we will again offer “The Light Is On For You”. The church will be open from 7 – 9 pm for prayer and reconciliation. We will have three priests available.

Fr. said the parish mission would be another opportunity to invite someone to attend. Perhaps it will inspire them to come back to St. John’s.

Fr. commented that, unlike in the past, today people “church hop”. Parish loyalty is not as prevalent.

**Round Robin:** Mike Stucke indicated that the key points he wanted to discuss, relationships, fellowship, breakfast, dinner, inspiring, educating were brought up during tonight’s discussions. We need to figure out how to prioritize and energize.

Matt reminded everyone that parishioners need to make choices between their faith life and our leisure life. What are we choosing, what comes first, what is our priority?

Fr. asked those whose terms are expiring in 2018 whether they will be leaving the council, or if it is their first term, whether they are willing to serve a second term?

Greg Andrews – Uncertain  
Karen Brackman – Term limited  
Judy Kleman Leshner – Uncertain  
Matt Watercutter – Uncertain

Fr. asked that those who are uncertain to please let him know as soon as possible so that he knows how many positions will need to be filled when he calls for nominations in April.

**Ministry Report for Next Meeting:**

- Cemetery – Dale Voisard
- St. Vincent Society – Mike Begley

Judy Kleman Leshner will provide hospitality for the February meeting, Greg Andrews will present Adult Faith Formation, and Matt Sinning will provide the Closing Prayer of Gratitude.

Mary advised that she will not be able to attend the February meeting, so we need a volunteer to record the meeting minutes.

