

## Mary, Mother of Mercy, Combined Parish Council Committee Reports

### **Fellowship Committee Report to Parish Council**

April 8, 2019

by Janice McLaughlin Chair

The Committee had a meeting on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at St. Francis

Plans for summer Holy Days and Feast Days were made and confirmed via phone to those not in attendance.

St. Francis:

For Ascension Thurs: Baked stuffed shells, meatballs, salad and lemon bars.

For the Feast of St. Francis Solanus: Wine and Cheese

For Assumption: fruit cocktail salad and root beer floats.

St. James:

They are working on their Ice Cream Social for the Feast day and Coffees for morning masses on Holy Days.

Holy Cross:

I was assured that the Holy Days and Feast Day would be taken care of. They do not have a representative on the fellowship committee, at this time, and I asked if they'd consider joining or know anyone interested. I offered support and assistance from the committee, if they need, it for their socials.

On April 8th, Kathy Sinkiewicz e-mailed me to say that for the past few years, they have had a brunch on Pentecost Sunday at Holy Cross. She proposes that they do it again this year. (June 9th). She is happy to organize this and it is open to anyone in the parish after the mass Pentecost Sunday at Holy Cross Meeting Center. Kathy asked that I propose this to the arise council for approval. Thank you

Parish Picnic/ Father's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration for September 8<sup>th</sup>:

We are in need of a chairperson to oversee this event. What we know so far: there will be a tent. We would like to know the main course so that plans for dishes to pass can be made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Does the Parish want/ need to do fundraisers such as yard sales and/or raffles at Socials?

Does the Parish want to honor volunteers at a social? Which Church has the greatest capacity?

Suggested dates at the end of the year such at Sunday October 13 or Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

PERSONAL

Please excuse me from the June Parish council Meeting. Requesting prayers for surgery May 31<sup>st</sup> and recovery. Glad to stay on Fellowship but please open the Chair position to anyone who is interested. If none, I will be glad to stay on to serve. Thanks all, Janice

## **Worship Committee report to Parish Council**

March 26, 2019

Lenten preparations:

- Scheduling of laity for Masses during Holy Week is going well
- Fr. Richard is available to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass as needed
- Fr. Bernard clarified practice regarding the Easter Candle. It will be carried in procession during the Easter Vigil Mass at SFS.

Lector practicum

- Reviewed the document. Fr. Bernard to update and recirculate.

Prayer requests:

- Prayer Request policy has been updated based on parishioner feedback. Wording previously prohibited use of personally identifiable information. The policy now reads: "In order to preserve an individual's privacy, please do not include any last names in your petition without permission"

Parish Mission:

- A parishioner suggested investigation into establishing a parish mission in the future. At Fr. Bernard's recommendation, the matter be referred to the Word Committee.

Eucharistic Ministers:

- A parishioner suggested a change in procedure at SJA with regard to assuring the proper number of Eucharistic Ministers were available at Mass. After discussion, it was felt that restating existing procedures should address the concern.

St James choir:

- A suggestion has been made to request the choir conclude practice 10-15 minutes before Mass in order to provide parishioners with a few moments of quiet meditation and preparation. This will be forwarded to the Liturgy committee.
- 

The Worship Committee will meet again on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:45am at SFS.

Tom Duff

4/6/2019

## **Word Committee Report**

**April 11, 2019**

The word committee met on March 26, 2019 to discuss the current Religious education format and begin to make plans for the coming academic year. We were joined by Helen Arco, a longtime teacher for religious ed.

The current program is being administered by Rich Rasmussen from Immaculate Conception Church. Rich has said he does not wish to repeat for the 2019-2020 year. While acknowledging the limitations of the current program in achieving the goals directed by the diocese and the USCCB, there were a lot of positives from the program that we hoped to continue.

In Rich's absence, we considered the feasibility of returning to the former way of doing 15 hours of instruction at the boathouse over the summer, and 10-15 hours of instruction at St. James over the course of the academic year. Unfortunately, the loss of Jen Sharp from our parish meant that the person who really ran the summer program is no longer here, and there are no candidates to take her place. There are simply not the teachers to go back to 25-30 Sunday morning sessions.

The committee felt that due to the current geographic layout of the parish that a web based program would work best. There seem to be three options. First, to try to find a local administrator to do what Rich did this past year, assuming Rich would let us have access to his web based lessons. Second, to go to a program sold through Dynamic Catholic, *mycatholicfaithdelivered*. Third, a more traditional teaching system, still web-based, *catechismclass.com*. A final decision was not made.

We plan on doing a Survey Monkey of the current parents to seek their opinion regarding this past year's program, and options for next year. We are also going to look into the web based catechism that is commercially available, as noted previously.

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee