

**Church of the Divine Child Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
September 19, 2016**

Present:

Rev. James Bilot - Pastor

Rev. John Kopson - Associate Pastor

Steve Gibb - President

Ernie Bridgnanan – Vice President

Reps at Large: - Frank Corak, Pamela Szpytman and Margaret Van Houten

Beth Stawasz Donovan – Christian Service

Marti Biscaro and Tess Noonan – Education

Jodi Ann Micallef – Worship

Marilyn O'Brien – Communication

Absent:

Frank Neal – Rep at Large

Meeting was called to order at 7:07p.m. with prayer lead by Steve Gibb.

June meeting minutes approved by Ernie Bridgnanan and Jodi Ann Micallef

COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service: Report provided by Beth Stawasz

1. Twenty-five people attended the first meeting of the year! Advertising in the bulletin prior to the meeting might have boosted the attendance.
2. The AOD asked all parishes to do a day of “Mercy in Action” for Sat, Oct 1. We are having a drive for baby items for Wee Care. People can also pray at the Northland family planning clinic in Westland with Our Lady of Good Counsel parishioners at 9:30am. A group goes there once a month.
3. Blood Drive had maximum participants in each time slot. Will have more results next month.
4. Right to Life: Life Chain is on Sunday, October 2. DC location: Telegraph & Wilson from 2pm - 3:30pm
5. View full report on church website under councils/commissions.

Worship Commission: Report provided by Jodi Ann Micallef

1. Jodi Ann is waiting to hear back from all the ministry fair reps. For the most part it was a huge success. 17 ministries. Enjoyable, friendly and great participation. Last weekend helped when all the Fathers spoke about it in their homilies. The THIS AND THAT ministry went very well. 54 people signed up! It is a good ministry to start participating.
2. October 5 at 6:30pm in the gathering room - Ministry Q&A night for Readers and anyone else who is a part of some kind of ministry. October 13 at 6:30pm is another Ministry Q&A for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and anyone else who is part of some kind of ministry.

3. All seems to be going well with the new Mass schedule.
4. View full report on church website under under councils/commissions.

Education Commission: Report provided by Marti Biscaro and Tess Noonan.

1. Sept 26, 2016 - Catholic Faith Formation Night (CFFN), on Why Pro-Life? Speakers are Mr. Marc Sierra, DCHS Theology Teacher and Shannon Salter, DC Parishioner and College Student. October 24, 2016 CCFN with Fr. John about the election. Being Catholic and voting. Nov 28 CFFN Developing a Prayer Life with Fr. Jim.
2. Mass for our Nation on Friday, October 28 at 7pm followed by a Holy Hour of Adoration for our nation.
3. We have a new Director of Religious Education, Dawn Dwyer.
4. 5-week Grief Seminary will start on Wed, Sept 28 in the Gathering Room at 7pm.
5. View full report on church website under under councils/commissions.

Communication Commission: Report provided by Marilyn O'Brien

1. Signing with another Bulletin publisher effective January 2017, Dee Printing.
2. The Parish now has a new Facebook page! Look for it under "Church of the Divine Child." look for the nativity Icon. Please like us, follow us and share! The School page is under Divine Child Catholic Schools.
3. Next Meet and Greet for new parishioners will be November 21 at 7pm.

Finance/ Stewardship: Report provided by Fr. James Bilot

1. Went through all 2015-16 financials. We will be posting financial report in the bulletin very soon. We did run in the red -45,000. Not a concern because it was due to some budgetary bills.
2. The new Alumni Athletic track and field is almost completed. Gateway, Iron fencing next to the gateway and two buildings need to be finished. One building will be the concession stand & visitor locker room the other building is the home locker rooms and storage. We do not have the funds yet and no parish funds were used for any of these projects. We readjusted the funds to be able to pay for the bleachers and lights.
3. Renovations for the 5 ½ rooms in the high school and 1 room in the elementary school science wings will begin next summer. We need 1.2 million to complete the project. Advancement will raise funds and if we cannot raise it all at once, we will do it in phases.

REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE

Frank Corak: Gave a talk on relics to the National Council of Catholic Women Archdiocese of Detroit. They thoroughly enjoyed it. October 29 & 30 all of our relics will be on display in the church.

Pamela Szpytman: Commented that Fr. Jim did a very good job writing about the music in his bulletin column on September 11.

Margaret Van Houten:

1. Commented there has been a lot of outreach to the alumni base which is refreshing to see that.

2. Many people were very excited about the ribbon cutting ceremony in August.
3. Margy and her mom ran into a women in church who was visiting because she was "Church Shopping." They introduced themselves and spoke a bit on Divine Child, showed her around and encouraged her to join the parish. Great Evangelization Margy!

OLD BUSINESS

1. In response to Tracey Boudreau's question to Fr. Jim, "Why did we let Joe Marino go without cause." We would not let him go for no reason at all. There is a bigger picture here.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Rebecca Bridgnanan stepped down as Youth Minister and we are currently looking for a replacement.
2. Need to replace Jolanda Karson position as rep-at-large. Post article in the bulletin asap.
3. Fr. Jim signed contracts to have a streamline screen installed in the Gathering Room for presentations. Installing scheduled for the first week of October.
4. Matt Simpson, Director of Music, came out and spoke after all the Masses on Sept 11
5. Fr. Jim said we received 1000 responses for the Mass time changes. Mostly all positive comments.
6. Fr. Jim - We need to update our Parish Pastoral Plan. Fr. Jim gave all Parish Council members the Parish Vicariate & Archdiocesan Council packets from the Archdiocese of Detroit. Each member needs to review it and bring back 3 top wants/needs we think Parish Council needs to work on. As the primary visioning body of the parish, we need to assist the pastor in:
 - a. **Soliciting the wisdom of the parish community on pastoral matters.**
 - b. **Forming a consensus about pastoral planning, which addresses the needs of the parish.**
 - c. **Communicating that pastoral vision to the parish as a whole.**
 - d. **Involving the parish commissions in implementing the vision.**

Look to our Mission Statement...are we bringing people to Jesus? What is our vision that we see as Parish Council's role? Someone mentioned having our Mission Statement on a banner in the Gathering room. Need to talk to Karen Kruszka to get prices.

7. Jodi Ann Micallef - Our mission statement is a good intro at every gathering we have and needs to be articulated to everyone we encounter and know why we exist and what our mission is. Jodi Ann has asked the athletic department, at both schools, to announce our Mass times at all the athletic events.
8. Fr. John mentioned to look closely at chapter 5 page 42 of the packet Fr. Jim handed out. What is the new evangelization? Made popular by Pope John Paul II refers to a new effort at a comprehensive proclamation of the Gospel to the baptized that, "have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel" (Redemptoris Missio, 33).

PASTORAL COMMENTS

1. Fr. Jim and Fr. John spoke about needing to be a team as Parish Council. Support what is going on in the parish. If someone has a negative comment/complaint, please respond positively and tell them you will get back with them, if answers are needed. Support your parish and our leaders in a positive way.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with a closing prayer by Fr. John.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn O'Brien