

**St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Pastoral Council Meeting
August 11, 2020 - 6:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Fr. Brian Mason, Mary Beth Katorski, Danielle Michaels, David Kreidler, Lisamarie Collins, Maureen Riemer, Deb Schenk, Jess Petre, Thomas Bartnicki, Robert Gabor, Clem Budny, Tammy DuBois

Guests: Dr. Mark Joerres

Excused: Kyle Shimek

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Opening Prayer

Introduction of Dr. Mark Joerres (new school principal) and School Reopening Plan

- Dr. Mark Joerres introduced himself and discussed the School Reopening Plan
 - Ad hoc committee comprised of 10 parents (several who are medical professionals), 9 faculty members, and 3 parish staff members developed the Plan after many hours of analysis and discussion.
 - School to reopen Wednesday, September 3, with in-person instruction five days per week.
 - Established 2020-21 calendar/schedule will be followed.
 - Virtual instruction is an option for students who have medical conditions or are not yet comfortable returning to in-person instruction. Virtual instruction will occur synchronous to in-person instruction via Zoom.
 - Parents were surveyed in July to gauge preference of how instruction should occur in fall and what safety measures were important to in-person instruction, and to capture feedback related to virtual learning from last spring. 88% of families responded to the survey.
 - Various policies and protocols for safely returning to in-person instruction have been created within the general areas of Environment & Safety, Cleaning & Disinfecting, Wellness, and Instruction (Classroom environment).
- A Contingency Plan has also been developed in the event there is a mandate to reduce from five days of in-person instruction
- There will be two Tuesday Morning School Masses to allow for reduced numbers in attendance at each Mass.
- ~370 students enrolled as of early August

Pastor's Comments

- August 8/9 was the first weekend where pre-registration to attend Mass was not required. Also, those attending could choose their own seats (while maintaining social distancing). Mass attendance doubled.
- Weekday Masses resumed on Monday, August 10. Confessions were to resume on Thursday, August 13.
- Livestreaming will move from Facebook Live to Vimeo in the future.

- The September stewardship letter will include a special “ask” from Fr. Brian for additional contributions from parishioners to make up for the lost revenue (~\$100K) from the cancelled parish festival.
- The number of funerals was low from March – July, but have recently increased. Dan O’Connor continues to support the funeral ministry on an as-needed basis. Funeral choir members have begun to attend funerals and sit within the community.
- The celebration of First Communion took place in July within the context of eight regular weekend Masses.
- Eighth Grade Graduation Mass was held on July 26.
- Adult Initiation rites are scheduled to take place at a noon Mass on Saturday, August 15 (Feast of the Assumption of Mary).
- Youth Confirmation to take place the first two weekends of October at three Masses each weekend. Fr. Brian has been granted faculties to administer the sacrament in place of a bishop.
- Fr. Dominic will resume helping with weekday and weekend Masses.

Pastoral Council New Member Discernment/Officers

- The discernment of new members of Pastoral Council is deferred until further notice due to the challenge of effectively communicating with parishioners in light of reduced Mass attendance.
- Fr. Brian extended to the four Council Members whose terms have expired the invitation to continue on Council until new members can be discerned. The position vacated by any of these members will not be filled until the discernment process is able to take place. Robert Gabor consented; other three members to communicate their decision by the September meeting.
- Fr. Brian asked if Mary Beth Katorski (Chairperson) and Danielle Michaels (Vice-Chairperson) were willing to continue in their roles until the discernment process takes place. Both consented.

Proposed Book Study on Catholic Social Teaching Regarding Racism and Racial Equality

- In light of recent events, Fr. Brian would like Pastoral Council to engage in a book study and ongoing discussion based on the book “Racial Justice and the Catholic Church” by Fr. Bryan Massingale. Council members agreed that this would be a valuable undertaking.
- Fr. Brian will ensure that all members of Council receive a copy of Fr. Massingale’s book.

Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded at 8:15pm.