

PPC Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2021

Attendees: Msgr. Dempsey, Jim Pink, Mary Kelly, Judy Kozak, Krista Testwuide, Walt Falkowski, Heidi Christen, Ramiro Roman

Absent: Jennifer Boldry, Pat McCaskey, Chris Puszyński

Opening Prayer: Walt

Approval of March Minutes: Approved

Four PPC members attended their last meeting. We would like to thank Krista, Heidi, Walt, and Jim for their service over the past three years.

Pastor's Report (Monsignor Dempsey):

- Current practices and policies: These are in a state of flux as the state and local communities are easing restrictions. The Archdiocese would like to have common practices for all parishes which is a little difficult to define as the state and city of Chicago are not aligned. Capacity is now at 150. Most masses are exceeding the 100 level. The biggest issue of handling more people is the 6 ft distance. Chairs will be set up in the gathering area to handle the increase in numbers while maintaining the 6 ft distance. Anticipate slowly get back to normal with more capacity and less social distancing. Anticipating September to be back to normal.
- Funerals are limited to 100 and mostly in main church to hold more individuals. Weddings are starting to be scheduled. There are several on the schedule.
- There have been quite a few baptisms with some weekends having multiple events. A back log developed during the pandemic.
- There will be some summer school classes for Religious Education so that some kids can get caught up to allow them to receive the various sacraments.
- Confirmation was held in May.
- First Communion was held in April. Several of the children who did not partake in the larger group are receiving their first communion on the weekends.
- It is anticipated that next fall all Religious Education classes will be in person and everything should be back to normal.
- Financial status is decent. Sunday collections are at 93-94% of budget. The Easter collection took in 85-90% of budget. Some donations for Easter are still coming in. The parish is receiving some donations from organizations who have used our facilities so that they could be more spacing.
- There will be an outdoor Corpus Christi procession from new church to old church. The celebration will be outdoors.

- Renew my church will kick off fall of 2022 then parish wide process spring 2023 with the changes taking effect July 1, 2023. One area that would be good to look at before the official kick-off would be to combine the Youth Ministry of the parishes.

Old Business:

Annual Dinner w/ St Mary and Holy Cross

On Hold

New Business:

Database of parishioners' emails at St. Pat's – Judy, Roman, Jim

Nothing new to report at this time. Software provider new functionality will allow users to update their information on-line. This will be in next update of software which the vendor has not given a timeline for yet.

Parish Outreach:

- **Women's Group:** Mary Spoke with the leaders of the Women's Group and asked where they were with everything and what were their thoughts going forward. The dilemma they are facing is whether they still serving a need to the women of the parish. They were wondering how to outreach to younger families. Most events in the past have been during the day and catered to older women. They are currently on hold and looking for guidance for next steps. They would like to find new leadership as the current leaders have been running the women's group for a long time.
- **Men's Group:** Smaller numbers are smaller than in the past. There are a few men that are doing much of the work to keep the group going. They have restarted their 6:30 weekday mass on the first Friday of each month. It is unknown whether they will be planning their annual retreat. The group gets together at Rosatis occasionally. St Mary's mens group is offering "That Man is You" as an online retreat which maybe the group could investigate. There are other programs also that might interest the group. Roman will discuss some of them with Paul Lipka.
- **Ministries:** Heidi coordinated these efforts. She has reached out to the several different ministries. From Heidi's outreach some ministries need support. The Scripture group has continued thru the pandemic by having their meetings via Zoom. Some of the ministries are genuinely concerned about the future. Most ministries have seen a major drop off in engagement. The intent is to offer support, encouragement, creative ideas as needed to strengthen and/or re-launch the ministry and to let their membership know that the parish is open to their ideas and active participation. If they have good ideas, they can reach out to the Parish Office for approval and then implement them. New leader needs to be found if this is to continue.
- **Survey:** Chris, Judy, Heidi
Sample survey was distributed that was edited by Monsignor and some of the parish staff. The survey was broken into four sections Communication, Sunday Mass, Parish Ministries

and Activities, and Youth. The idea was to send out with new email database or include the website where the parishioners could update their information but the timing with new software update may not work out. Will probably have to see existing software to send out survey.

- **September Celebration:** Mary, Chris, Krista, Heidi

This has not been followed up on yet. Concern was timing of the event as it would be difficult to get volunteers to put in the effort over the summer. The discussion was to look at the last weekend in September first weekend in October to have a Celebratory mass and Parish Picnic or refreshments with some activities for the kids. Mary will reach out to the Women's Group to see if maybe they could help. Looking to recruit more people which could bring more participation and more ideas. Mary and Krista are to coordinate.

- **Religious Education** – Tabled

- **Parish annual events:** Heritage Day – Mary offered to participate. Tabled

New PPC Members: Suggestions for potential replacement candidates for PPC members were given to Monsignor. He will move forward and approach some of these prospective candidates.

Suggestion Box: Nothing reported.

Up Coming Meeting Schedule

New members will be welcomed at the September meeting. Heidi to work with Jennifer to set schedule for next year.

All meetings to begin at 7 pm with location TBD.

Closing Prayer: Mary

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Pink