**Epiphany of the Lord Parish**

**Pastoral Council Minutes**

**September 13, 2021**

**Present:** Father Jeff Lucas, Paulette Widmann, Mary Burkett, Sue Kelly, Hope Fiely, Alex Hilton, Linda Patton, Mike Kloecker, Amy Mosbacher, Jesse Sipos, Angela Bisbee, Sergio Cortés

**Welcome:** Paulette Widmann, 6:06 pm, welcome to new member, Hope Fiely

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Lucas

**Minutes:** May 10, 2021 minutes approved

**UPDATES**

**Adult Faith Formation:** (Amy Mosbacher)

--The small group sessions will begin the first week of October. Twenty-nine people so far have signed up and there are still spaces available. Some groups may combine if numbers are low per group.

--Three people to date have signed up for *Catholics Returning Home* which begins September 23. It is aimed at non-practicing Catholics who have an interest in returning to the sacraments and the life of the Church. A team of seven will alternate for six sessions covering various topics to help guide them back. The program will run three times a year.

--Theology Uncorked will cover the Prophets and be livestreamed. Twenty-eight people, as yet, have signed up.

--A time capsule will be hosted by the Meadville Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Board and Crawford Central School Board. Sponsors are Allegheny College, Meadville Medical Center, and Quick Stop Food Store. The dedication is Wednesday, October 13 at Diamond Park. Epiphany of the Lord will offer the first bulletin from our newly formed parish, and our Welcome booklet.

--A bereavement ministry, which has been lacking of late, is being formed in the parish. Cards will go out to family members, followed, after a period of time, by another card. A few months later contact will be made to invite the grieving to a support group. They will meet the second Wednesday of the month.

--A book discussion group will be held to conclude the Year of St. Joseph. It will run Wednesdays, November 3 through December 8, at 2:00 pm at St. Agatha Center.

--Our church mission will be held May 14-17 with Capuchin Fr. Joe Tuscan from Pittsburgh.

**Seton School:** (Fr. Lucas)

--Many good things have been accomplished at Seton over the past several weeks.

1. Tuition did not need to be raised this year, in part, due to the substantial number of students enrolled.

2. Seton is following rigorous protocols set by the diocese for periods of high case numbers of Covid.

3. The first Seton Mass was held last week. The public is invited to attend and must wear facemasks along with the students.

4. Different standardized tests are be explored.

5. Seton was successful in finding enough teachers this year to cover all classes. There are 106 families at Seton with 150 students enrolled.

**Religious Education:** (Sergio Cortés)

--Religious Ed. now has a permanent Youth Group Team for middle and high school.

--The summer programs had 20 students participating, with some from Seton School as well.

--Many projects are in the works at St. Brigid for service hours, such as a chalkboard wall on the bottom floor for messages, etc., a Communion of Saints wall in the stairwell where students’ pictures can be added, and a Seven Days of Creation area on the upper floor, located where the hangars used to be. There will still be a place on the lower floor for winter coats to be hung. Linda Patton will possibly help with artistic features of the walls, and she believes it will be a very child-inviting area. Father noted a visit he enjoyed to a very old church in England which had an enchanting kid-corner that jumps out and speaks to the congregation of the care and nurturing of the children. Mary likes the idea of a chalkboard that can be changed easily from event to event.

**Pastoral Planning Task Force:** (Fr. Lucas)

--A properties committee has been formed to examine the various locations held by the parish and assess the benefits of each location and rate how they contribute to the needs of the parish. No single facility has everything needed. Sale offers have been turned down since this process has not been completed. The task force and the properties committee will proceed with a plan on getting appraisals carried out. Nothing as yet has been decided.

--One step forward will be integration of the music ministry. Ideas discussed included creating a permanent music area in the front corner of the nave where the ambo is located. There will be space for the grand piano, choir, and instrumentalists for use with all types of music, such as contemporary, traditional, and praise and worship. The organ is in good repair and will continue to be used also. As the statues will need to be shifted around, others from the parish churches may be incorporated. Father commented that the Communion of Saints is part of the Mass and we should have statues included and the Council agrees.

--Other areas for discussion of integration involve lighting, paint, carpeting and pew cushions. Father explained that we need to ascertain how to integrate the arts, enhance the church, and keep some historical connection. Council discussed perhaps consulting with an architect and/or volunteers, depending on availability and time frames, to get insights on how to proceed with the interior of the church to keep with the theme and integrity of the style. Better lighting and pew cushions add to the worship experience. There is a consensus of the council to begin with the music area.

**Spreading the Love:** (Linda Patton)

--Sixteen cards have gone out to the homebound. Sergio and the students will work on sending cards out every other month. If anyone knows of a homebound person who would appreciate a card, they can call the office. A notice will be in the bulletin.

**Maintenance:** (Jesse Sipos)

--As a lector, Paulette expressed thanks to Mary and Jesse for getting the railing near the ambo painted and installed. It works well and serves a great purpose.

--CSA projects include: •repairing leaky walls on the sides of the entrance at St. Mary’s, the walls will be cleaned next.

•fixing dormers at the rectory at St. Agatha and fixing leaks in certain rooms. A contract is in place for this work.

•pew cushions at St. Agatha to help with comfort and sound absorption

•a bid has been accepted on painting the railings at St. Agatha

•painting the rectory and the cement blocks and trim around the windows at St. Brigid

--Jim King has been hired for the maintenance team. He is currently helping with the mowing at St. Brigid Cemetery. He has experience in building upkeep and will help with other projects as needed.

--Father mentioned the railing on the Pine St. side of St. Agatha is separating from the cement. Once the concrete is fixed, Jesse may need to reweld the railings.

**Security Plan:** (Sue Kelly)

--Sue has a draft of a plan that has been used at another church. There are still questions to be answered such as where to shut off valves, etc. Mary, Jesse and Sue will meet to complete the questions and work on training for the ushers and greeters, recruiting new people since some have retired, and deciding if the training will be identical for ushers as well as the greeters. This ministry will be slightly different than before the pandemic and will incorporate training on behavior awareness.

**CSA:** (possible projects)

--Possible projects discussed were architectural enhancements, bids for pew cushions, lighting for the sanctuary, painting the dark walls of the sanctuary, and cleaning of the high altar.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• Saint Michael Prayer: has been a tradition to say this prayer at the conclusion of Sunday Masses and will now be continued. Paulette has the prayer printed on cards to be distributed to parishioners. An announcement will be made and the practice will begin this weekend.

• An update to the Military Honor Board is needed. There will be a bulletin notice for new pictures.

**OPEN FORUM**

• Morning Prayer will be offered after the 8:00 am Mass on Mondays for now. Books are available.

• 7:30 Sunday Mass and 8:00 weekday Masses will continue to be streamed. The new link for streaming on the parish website is working now.

• A suggestion was made to make available T-shirts and/or sweatshirts with the parish’s new name, logo, and motto/vision statement, which is a shortened version of the mission statement.

• Another suggestion was to begin having Vespers after the Saturday evening Mass. Alex will discuss the possibility with Fr. Petrone.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• The Spaghetti Dinner at St. Mary of Grace Church is October 10 and will be take-out only. Orders can be made from September 5 through the 26th.

• Next Parish Council Meeting will be October 11, 2021, at 6 pm at St. Agatha Center

Closing Prayer: 8:11 pm by Fr. Lucas