

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
February 1, 2022

Council Members Present: Mike Anderson, Fr. Max Behna, Mary Kienstra, Dan Lawler, Chris Lupo, Anne Lysaught, Kathy O'Rourke, Robert Presnak, Barb Ryan, Susan Stonesifer, Terry Wagner

Council Members Absent: Liz Kruk, Olivia Zabel

Guests: Sue Schroeder

OPENING AND PRAYER: Tonight's meeting was held in the Upper Room and via Google Meets. Mike Anderson supplied the prayer and Terry Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2022 MINUTES: All members agreed to approve the minutes, none opposed. Minutes approved.

PASTOR REPORT from Fr. Max

- Fr. Max is finalizing the job description for the Director of Art & Environment position. He's hoping to post that soon.
- Riani Ng is the newest staff member as the Bookkeeper, and she's settling in nicely.
- Staff is looking at new software platforms for parishioner databases, calendars, the SMMP website, communication tools, etc.
 - Currently reviewing two vendors.
- Fr. Max discussed the kneeling/standing situation with the Liturgy Committee, and, after much prayer and thought, he plans to share his decision and reasoning with the parish as soon as this weekend, in the homily.

BUDGET REVIEW from Sue Schroeder

- Sue presented the proposed high level budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. She covered the positives and concerns for SMMP, and answered many questions from PC.
- PC reviewed the Commission budgets and all agreed to go forward tentatively with a flat budget.
 - Sue will work with the Commissions so that they can move forward with their more detailed budgets using the totals we agreed to
 - PC will discuss the proposed budget assumptions further at the April meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

CSC from Mary Kienstra

- Mary explained that the Welcoming Committee is looking for feedback from Father and PC to determine the expectations and future of the group. This will be an agenda item for March.
- Other notes are in the report.

CWC from Barb Ryan

- Planning for Lent will start February 9th and 10th.
- Notes are in the report.

CFC from Chris Lupo

- The Knights of Columbus are planning an event geared toward fathers and men in the parish.
- Religious Education attendance is up!
- Other notes are in the report.

ADMIN from Anne Lysaught

- Anne and Stephanie Barcel are coming up with a formal monthly report template for Administration.
- Admin met 1/31/22 to discuss various repairs for the parish facilities.
- Admin is reviewing a bid to fix the concrete stairs by the south entrance to the Church. They are also reviewing the bids for the roof repairs.

ALL SAINTS from Anne Lysaught

- The school board met last week to discuss the various school events.
 - ASCA could not find a Track & Field coach, so the school will not be able to participate in that sport this year. Anne suggested that perhaps SMMP gets ahead of that next year and helps publicize the need.
- All Saints is bringing a proposal to the Diocese to extend the payments made from each parish, possibly changing the yearly payment amounts and payoff date. Fr. Max will follow up on this proposal.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE from Bob Presnak

- The committee will be sending out a “Thank You” to all those who participated in the Annual Appeal.

YOUTH REPORT from Olivia Zabel (Emailed report)

- The new homeroom model isn't as bad as it sounds. It has become more of a study hall for seniors, which is super beneficial.
- Naperville North is reimplementing a program called Signs of Suicide (sos). It is focusing on students' mental health and reaching out to individuals who may need extra guidance.
- Winter sports are ramping up for the season, and show choir contest season is starting for the year, with their first competition on Saturday in Iowa.

PC took a short break from 8:13-8:20pm.

CWC VISION REPORT from Barb Ryan

- Barb presented the Vision Statement for the Christian Worship Commission, which was drafted by Mary Oliphant (kudos!).
- Barb presented the needs that CWC will focus on going forward:
 - The lack of lay ministers and the potential reasons for the gap in volunteers
 - Staff turnover and the opportunity to introduce the new staff members to SMMP's charisms
 - Maintaining the values of Vatican II and sacramental celebrations
- Budget items that CWC sees coming up in the future: Art & Environment position; a videographer/point-person for the live streaming; a moveable stand for cremains at funerals; etc.

RECRUITING FOR NEXT YEAR from Fr. Max

- Fr. Max is planning to keep most of the PC recruitment process the same, with only a few small tweaks.
 - Bob and Susan will assist Fr. Max with the recruitment efforts.
 - Chris, Terry, and Liz are all leaving PC this year.

PARISH APPRECIATION EVENT from Mike Anderson and Kathy O'Rourke

- The Appreciation Event committee is meeting 2/2 to discuss the event. The event is May 21, 2022 in the evening, probably after the 5pm mass. Kathy and Mike are already meeting with vendors.

PREVIEW OF FEB PC & STAFF MEETING from Dan Lawler and Terry Wagner

- The commission reps need to send the Vision Reports to Dan to discuss at the Feb 12 meeting.

- Dan and Terry plan to have more dialogue among the staff and Council, in large and small groups.
 - The group will determine together the next steps for the parish based on the various Vision Reports.
- Fr. Max noted that because of the transition and changes, there has been some tension and confusion regarding the nature of the new staff positions. Additionally, the staff has felt that the expectations are not necessarily clear, particularly because they do not know the history of SMMP and the roles they inhabit.

WHIP AROUND

- PC discussed the following:
 - Solar energy could help the parish in the long term with costs, so perhaps Admin could review solar options again.
 - Adding a suggestion box in the back of the church, and perhaps an email box.
 - Parishioners are talking about the need for more handicap parking spots — Men's Club is already discussing this issue and planning to sponsor a fundraiser of some sort.
 - The Welcoming Committee and Kathy are following up with new parishioners and providing lots of informational items and communication.
 - There is concern that the mask mandates are not being followed at SMMP. PC discussed in-depth how to follow up on this.

Mike Anderson supplied the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

CWC REPORT

CWC Report
February 2022

Altar Servers

Inactive

Ken Miles

Art and Environment

We are in need of a paid staff coordinator for this ministry. Joann Jeffries and Collette Presnak, along with their team of volunteers, continue to keep our worship place beautifully decorated to reflect the liturgical seasons.

Submitted by Barb Ryan

Baptism Assistants

- **Baptism Ministry**

-Judy Rieser has been put in charge of the Baptism Volunteers as the Coordinator. She has created a signup genius for the volunteers to sign up for the dates that are scheduled for Baptisms. Rochelle communicates with Judy, who then posts the dates and number of volunteers needed for that day, depending on the number of families presenting for Baptism.

-Training took place and a formal outline was provided to the volunteers to know what the procedures are so that we are all on the same page.

- **Baptism Prep**

-It seems we have "caught up" from the back log of children who were not able to be baptized during the Covid shut down. We did not have an in-person Baptism Prep meeting in December as no one signed up. This month, we only had two families who attended. Next month we will have maybe 3-4 for each meeting.

-We are looking forward to planning a social gathering in the spring, to invite families who have had children baptized in the first 5 months of the year. A few volunteers are discussing the details, but no date has been set.

Submitted by Kelly Reznicek

Bread Bakers

Inactive

Brigid Harren

Eucharistic Ministers

- Lost 3 EMs to moves. No new ones.
- Posted schedule through Sunday before Lent.
- Some challenge getting sign-ups for 11 Mass.

Submitted by Bill Hassett

Family Altar Servers

Inactive

Submitted by Mary Oliphant

Greeters

No report.

Submitted by Desmond Curran

Linen Launderers

The "Linen Launderers" will start up again in February. There are 7 ladies at this point. I will put a "help wanted" ad in the bulletin soon and request a new head of launderers as it's time for me to retire from leading!

Submitted by Loretta Mercandante

Liturgy Coordinator

- Fr. Max and I are starting to work on getting Altar Servers back with a Coordinator, new signup and training, and scheduling. No start date yet.
- Beginning in April, Deacon Don Helgeson is starting again so a new schedule is being prepared. One deacon will do 5 pm Sat and another do 9 and 11 on Sunday and any baptisms. Gives us more opportunities to assist with four of us active.

Submitted by Ken Miles

Lectors

- I'm working on the next schedule, will have completed next week.
- We're going back to 2 lectors per mass.
- Working with Stephanie Barcel to update email list. We have 1 new lector, but several that have either left parish, not comfortable at this time or no longer available. That being said, the core group has been great. Will have accurate count at next meeting.

Submitted by Felice Chillemi

Music Ministry

- The 9:00 AM choir will restart on February 16th, presuming that Omicron does not get worse.
- The Children's choir for grades K-6 will start its first rehearsal/meeting on March 9th. The rehearsals will be on Wednesdays, from 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm.
- Youth ages 12 and up are invited to sing in the 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM choirs. This is because youth will be more challenged in these choirs, will learn more, and they will be integrated with the adults during mass.
- All these new activities will be advertised in the bulletin

Submitted by Jessica Chi

Contemporary Choir:

The Contemporary Choir is continuing to practice and sing at Mass in small groups until a time when it would be safer to once again sing as a full choir.

Submitted by Brian Pelz

Sacristans

- A former sacristan, who has not served since the onset of Covid, has decided to return to serve at the 11am Masses.

Submitted by Barb Ryan

***CWC will meet next on Thursday, February 10, 7pm**

Liturgy Development Meeting

Tuesday January 25th 7PM

Attending

Larry	Melissa	Nancy Fr Max
Terry	Brian	Jessica Joan (virtual)
Ken	Mary	Peggy Sandy

1. Review of Christmas and Advent (15-20 min)

Compliments on music and ambiance. The attendance seemed sparse on the 24th&25th but was robust on the 26th. The creed change for Advent was handled well. We discussed the homilies based on the book and suggested that reflection on the readings and Gospel was missed. Perhaps book homilies might be more impactful in ordinary time?

2. Discussion of the proposed Visioning statement that we would like to include with the CWC Vision Presentation (30 min)

Mary's document is excellent and, while we discussed the vision extensively, no substantive changes were requested. We did ask Terry to create an introductory statement to capsulize the vision and he will create that today. We also reiterated that we believe that Liturgy Development continue with its unique duties within the Christian Worship Commission

3. Kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer and after the Lamb of God (60 min)

This topic lasted much longer than 60 minutes 😊. A robust discussion was held to express our original decision to make the standing for the Eucharistic Prayer and Lamb of God and the important meaning it has for the majority of Parishioners. This is not done out of "force of habit" but rather as a reflection of the deep spirituality of the moments for the parish. We believe that it is allowed as per the GIRM. Standing is a truly communal expression of faith rather than an inward, individual devotion.

Fr Max then presented a 5-point rationale for his desire to ask SMMP to kneel.

1. He feels it is appropriate to kneel as per the GIRM
2. Kneeling would promote unity within SMMP as well as with the universal church as SMMP is in a minority of parishes who stand.
3. The Millennial Generation of Catholics is appearing to be desiring a traditional approach.

4. The unique posture of kneeling isn't intrinsically penitential. Rather it is reverent.
5. The original impetus of standing as a brand-new church 40 years ago was that we were overcrowded with people in the aisles. That is not the case any longer.

Fr Max will consider the conversation and let us know his decision.

We decided that the hour was late and we would move these items to the next meeting: the recitation of the Prayer to St Michael at daily Mass and a discussion of a parish prayer of peace.

Thank you to Nancy for the doughnut holes!

The next meeting will be **Tuesday February 8th at 7PM** and the main topic will be Lent and Easter.

CFC REPORT

Faith Formation – Gr. K to 8th

First Communion registration information was disseminated this past week. The dates are April 24th and May 1st during the 11 am mass, and we have 67 First Communicants. Plans are in the works for an in-person retreat on March 5th and a virtual parent/child night with Fr. Max.

Due to the Martin Luther King holiday, classes were not held for the week of January 19th. Covid has impacted attendance in January classes, especially those of our catechists. It has been challenging as we have very few subs available, but we have managed push through by the grace of God.

A catechist retreat was held on January 8th. It was well-attend with 25 participants. It was led by Kelly Reznicek, and the theme was prayer. The survey feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive and very relevant to their ministry.

In planning for classes next year, the CFC will be discussing the possibility of a slight change in the class start time on Tuesdays and whether tuition should remain the same or reflect a slight increase.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqui Snyder

Addition, added January 31:

Cafe met Jan 20, where the theme was "Choosing virtue over vice", based on Col 3. A discussion ensued to list some virtues to overcome a challenging vice. They also reflected on that virtue they would most like to work on and wrote a letter to themselves. Those will be mailed to them in June, to see the measure of their success.

Youth Ministry Report

This month we were supposed to host our annual Deanery Speaker but our presenter was in a biking accident and no longer able to come. The Youth Ministers in our deanery will be meeting to discuss our next steps.

We had many people absent over the last month with Covid or exposures but it seems like our attendance is starting to go back up. We will be following up with families who have missed sessions to ensure they are completing them on the Ascension digital platform. We will also start reminding 10th graders about their final preparations for confirmation like service hours, reflections, and confirmation interviews.

Our Peer Ministers have been preparing for the 10th grade retreat which is focused on the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit! We have our four witness talks and will be practicing small groups, skits, talks, and games over these last few weeks. The retreat is on February 25th-26th.

We are hoping to begin offering prayer nights once a week with a variety of opportunities like the rosary, adoration, and music reflection. We will be promoting it to all high school teens and potentially for their parents to have their own space.

Dan

Christian Formation Commission Feb, 2022 report

Plans are underway for the Women's Retreat at Mundelein. Currently we have 13 of our 17 max participants. The retreat will be Feb 11-13. Kelly Wahlquist is a nationally known women's speaker and will be presenting the retreat on her book, *Walking in Her Sandals: Experiencing Christ's Passion Through the Eyes of Women*. Kelly will also be speaking at our Morning Enrichment on Feb 9th on, *Sharing the Gospel With Confidence*.

Bible Study went remote for the month of January and will continue remote through the month of February, due to the rise in Covid numbers. Hopefully, to return to in person for the last 2 sessions in March.

SML was well attended by 18 people for Being On Mission: Refreshing Your Journey.

I very much enjoyed presenting to the FF catechists for the retreat on Jan 8th on the topic of prayer. We had great discussions and were able to spend some quiet time in adoration.

The Parish Mission was held on Jan 16-18, presented by Fr. Johnpaul Cafiero. His topic was our Mountaintop encounters with God. It was attended by about 50-60 per night and about 40 online. Be Formed began and has about 40 participants between 4 groups, one of which is an independent CRHP group.

Looking ahead:

SML on Feb 5th with Fr. Pat McDevitt Hearing God's Call

Morning Enrichment Feb 9, Women's Retreat Feb 11-13

Women's Café Feb 17, Baptism Prep Feb 17

Table for Two on Feb 20

CSC REPORT

Christian Service Commission 2021-2022

Monthly Report to the Parish Council

February 2022

Leadership Guidance Request:

None

Bereavement: The Bereavement Ministry will meet in February to assign cases and pray for the families that have had a loss of a loved one since November 2021.

Terry Taylor

Big Day of Service: Nothing to report

Carrie Tilton

BSA Scouts (Troop 507): The Troop will participate in the Klondike event at Cantigney this year (outdoor snow activity day). Ask a Scout how to build and lash a Klondike sled! Scout Sunday - the Troop and Pack are planning to participate in 11am mass on Sunday, February 6th.
Carrie Tilton

Charitable Contributions: The Charitable Contributions Committee will meet on Tuesday February 8, 2022 to review disbursing third quarter funds approved by the Parish Council.
Pam Cieslak

Christmas Giving Tree: Nothing new to report
Mary Anderson

Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral lunches and Emergency Meals): Nothing new to report
Kathy Kalina

Cub Scouts (Pack 507): The younger Scouts are meeting monthly as a large group, periodically in their smaller Dens and doing monthly hikes. The Pinewood Derby was a hit!
Carrie Tilton

Daybreak Transitional Housing: No new report

Earth Care: The Christmas lights recycling drive concluded in January and was a success. Both large Gaylord containers were completely filled with lights. Elgin Recycling was delayed in picking up the containers due to a shortage of drivers as a result of the pandemic. In the coming weeks, they will provide the committee with a report summarizing the amount of lights collected by the parish. The smaller collection boxes throughout the church have been picked up and put away for use next year. Thanks again to Barb Ryan for coordinating this year's recycling program!
Chris Mulvaney

Food Pantry: No new report

Holiday Food Basket Committee: I'm in the process of securing a date for this event. More to follow.
Judy Fus

Knights of Columbus: No new report

Legion of Mary: No new report

Men's Club: After the 11:00am mass on January 9th, several Men's Clubs members (+ some spouses and family members too), helped take down and pack up the Christmas decorations for next year.

The Men's Club members presented the gifts at all the masses during the weekend of January 15th/16th.

Larry Lucas is leading our effort for the membership and parishioners to; "Get Back to the Eucharist"

The 1st card night of 2022 was held on January 21st in the Parish center. Another one is planned for February 18th

The card night is being re-badged as "social" night, as members have been encouraged to attend and build camaraderie within the club.

Approximately 52 members (+4 people on Zoom) attended our monthly meeting on January 11th in the Parish Center.

Highlights from our January meeting included:

- Bob Presnak gave the membership an update on the planning for Bingo Night, which will be held on February 4th (Friday evening) in the Parish Center.
- Rick Peterson is trying to organize a Chicago White Sox game outing sometime this summer, which received strong interest from the group.
- Terry Wagner gave us a brief update on 2022 picnic committee chairs, formal planning meetings will start in March.
- The Jackson Ave. Pub in downtown Naperville was the featured business for our monthly "LOCAL business spotlight" during the January meeting.
- The Men's Club will hit the "pause" button on the 2022 Family Fun Night, to further evaluate the Covid-19 situation and look for improvement later in the Spring.

Our next Men's Club meeting is on February 15 at 6:30pm at the Parish Center, which is our annual "couple" night dinner for the spouses and significant others of the Men's Club members.

Father Max will be addressing the group after the formal business meeting.

Jeff Krebs

Military Ministry: Nothing new to report

Don Cronauer

Sunday Nursery: closed until further notice due to Covid protocols

PADS: We delivered 58 meals to the homeless staying in the Naperville Red Roof Inn on Jan 13. Next scheduled delivery is Feb 10.

Steve O'Brien

Pastoral Care:

Sunrise:

Each Sunday, in rotation, one of our five Ministers go to Sunrise. The Ministers are providing a much appreciated Communion Service for the residents at Sunrise. Of course, we call Sunrise before heading over, in case they have a Covid breakout.

Home Visits to the Homebound:

Myself and three other Pastoral Ministers of Care continue to visit the homebound. We provide prayer, Communion and support to those in need.

Judy Fus

Pro-LIFE Committee: The March for Life-Chicago was held on Saturday, January 8. Participation was a little lower than normal due to inclement weather. The March for Life in Washington, D.C. was as great as ever. Prayers for the 9 Days for Life novena were e-mailed to the pro-life list.

Mary Ann Cronauer

Refugee Support Group: The Refugee Support Ministry met on Tuesday January 25 to plan for the February 6 presentation by Exodus World Services after the 9AM and 11AM masses. **We invite all council members to attend one of those presentations.**

Steve Griffin

St. Vincent dePaul: No new report

September Club: Dedicated to keeping with the Parish's theme: "A Welcoming, Loving & Merciful Community" and the Parish's calling: "All are Welcome, Walk in Love."

Our Parish Theme Calling Statement:

We believe we are called to break down the walls that divide us-accepting, affirming, and accompanying each other, even those with whom we disagree.

AMEN.

Activities for November 2021

- We had our first event on Saturday November 13th since our last meeting in March 2020 because of the Pandemic. This was our Annual Remembrance 5 pm Mass and after Mass Dinner. Our members attend the Mass together to remember our departed members.
- After the Mass we all enjoyed a catered buffet dinner provided by Passero's in the Parish Center. There were 25 members attending and our special guest speaker Father Max. We had one new member Julissa Rojas attend. Father Max led us in our opening prayer.
- Our guest speaker, Father Max's insightful presentation was based on the book RETURN by Brandon Vogt with foreword by Bishop Robert Barron whose main theme was on "How to Draw Your Child Back to Church".

Activities for December 2021

- Our first regular Wednesday 12 Noon meeting, after returning from the Pandemic sabbatical, was held on Wednesday December 1st in the Parish Center. This was our regular December Early Christmas Celebration. Our President Klaus Rummer led us in our opening prayer.

- Our new Music Director Jessica Chi provided the Holiday entertainment with a selection of Christmas songs and carols on the piano
- A buffet lunch from Popeye's was served to our 23 members that attended. 6 of our Parish staff took us up on our invitation and also attended the luncheon as our guests.
- Afterwards, our President Klaus Rummer provided the attendees with a slide show explaining the mystery to the words of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Originally it was a poem written by Catholic clerics as a coded song for Catholics explaining the gospel at a time when the catholic church was being persecuted under King Henry the 8th. This song was transformed into a carol at a time when celebrating the 12 days of Christmas was one of the most important holiday customs. By understanding the meaning the clerics chose the 12 days as wrapping for their poem, the full impact of the tradition of the 12 days of Christmas can be understood.

Activities for February 2022

- Due to the recent surge of the Covid-19 Omicron variant we decided to not have our February Meeting. (The club does not meet in January)
- The club is planning to have our March meeting right after the Ash Wednesday Service on March 2nd in the Parish Center with a Lenten appropriate Luncheon.

Daniel Patt

Sharing Parish: I met with Father Max last Friday together with Don Cronauer and Bruce Cox and we came to an agreement that with covid still ongoing, we will not be doing any garage sale fundraising this year.

We have enough money for the school year 2022-2023 , so we will distribute the money for this year and notify the school and remaining families that we're winding down the scholarships side of the sharing parish Ministry.

At the end of this year, we might revisit that part of sharing parish, but as of now,

We will be done after we distribute the money we already have.

Virginia Cox

Sunshine Ministry: Judy Fus is going to alert the pastoral care ministers about Sunshine Ministry, in case any of the people they take Communion to might be interested in our service.

Mary Straub

Welcoming Committee: WC asked to provide refreshments for Parish mission, did a cookie "to go" on the first night. (\$21)

Baptism prep and Morning/evening enrichment refreshments now handled by AFF(none scheduled for January An additional meeting scheduled for WC 1/31/22 to discern individual gifts and desires in tandem with our mission statement. Issues include discerning the future direction of this ministry - as a support to other ministries for hospitality and refreshments or as a group who actively plans and presents events to bring people to church.

Judy Reiser