

Liturgy Committee Meeting
Church of Saint Mary, Alexandria
Thursday, April 21, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Present: Luke VanOverbeke, Father Matthew Kuhn, Jody Koubsky, Janice Doebber, Kathy Fischer, Bonnie Broman, Kevin Gorghuber, Char Hanson, Dave Reller, Michele Neale, Erin Takle, Tony Pasko, Bill Verschaetse and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Mary Gorghuber, Sue McCulloch, Grace Lambert, and Dawn Houska.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – The minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting were approved.
3. Liturgist's Update
 - Critique of Holy Week - Struggles and Successes
 - Many good comments were received about the Holy Week and Easter liturgies, especially the Altar of Repose, Adoration, Tennebrae, and the songs the choir sang.
 - Offering of the Precious Blood was well received.
 - A suggestion was made to offer the opportunity to participate in “washing of feet” to more people on Holy Thursday next year.
 - For next year’s Holy Week and Easter liturgies, Luke would prefer walk-through training to be held the morning before or a day or two before the liturgy; for example, train on the Saturday before Palm Sunday by having the captains and lead people get together to go through procedures and then have some social time. Father said he has found it works better to go through procedures with altar servers right before mass.
 - Luke will reach out to various ministries regarding specific needs and to schedule training and updating of procedures.
 - In the next few months, they will implement the use of Ministry Scheduler Pro. This software will do the scheduling for parish liturgies. In addition, it can be used to post announcements and articles of interest. Teams will be scheduled as a whole. The software can schedule family members who are in different ministries at the same mass. Luke noted that he emailed ministers a sign-up message and link today for the last time. After this, the new software will be used.
 - Luke said at each Liturgy Committee meeting, we will do some education. He handed out a brief version of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium*. He asked members to read it before the next meeting.
4. Pastor's Update
 - Father asked for suggestions on daily mass times in the summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day). After discussion, it was decided to change the Wednesday mass time to 8:30 a.m. Therefore, summer mass times will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m., Thursday at 5:30 p.m. After Labor Day, the Wednesday mass time will return to 6:30 p.m.
 - The following special masses are being planned for the upcoming weeks and months:
 - Saturday, May 7, 1:00 p.m. mass at Saint Mary's Church - "Honoring Marriage Day," a Saint Cloud Diocese celebration
 - Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, 9:00 a.m. mass at Saint Mary's Cemetery
 - Monday, July 4th, 9:00 a.m. mass at Saint Mary's Church
 - Monday, August 15, Feast of the Assumption, 9:00 a.m. mass at Saint Mary's Cemetery
 - Father said he will ask Leon Breun if he wants to be the liaison person for the Cemetery Committee.

5. Ministry Updates and Needs

- EMHC – Luke said there are 125 people signed up in the EMHC ministry. So far, 79 have received training. Father noted that a Commissioning Ceremony will be held this summer for new EMHCs and any current EMHC who hasn't been commissioned. He would also like to hold a retreat once a year off-site. The goal is to fully implement offering the Previous Blood at every weekend mass beginning in July. More people are being recruited and trained to fill openings on teams.
- Greeters and Hospitality – It was suggested that the sacristan, EMHC captain and hospitality captain should communicate before mass to be aware of what's scheduled at that mass. Bill updates the hospitality procedures as needed and then distributes the updated information to team captains. He communicates with teams about every two months. He said it would be helpful to develop training videos for people who can't attend in-person training. Michele Neale offered to help with developing training materials. Bill would like to include more background on the "what, why, and how" of the roles. He will be asking the greeters to position themselves right by the doors so they can welcome people as they enter the building. He will update the procedures to include greeters standing by the doors and also having the hospitality captain talk with the sacristan and EMHC captain before mass.
- It was suggested that the procedures/duties of all liturgical ministries be shared with people in other ministries, so people can understand the "what, why and how" of other ministries.
- Sacristans – Carol and Dave will update the sacristan duties and review them with Marlys Weber. A "point person" for sacristans should be identified.
- Art and Environment – Bonnie noted that the next environment change will be for Ascension.
- First Communion will be celebrated on May 7th and May 15th.

6. Summer Social - Bill will host a Summer Social for the Liturgy Committee at his home beginning at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 14th.

7. The next meeting of the Liturgy Committee will be May 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

8. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with prayer.

Submitted by:
Carol Gaffaney