

Liturgy Committee Meeting
Church of Saint Mary, Alexandria
Thursday, October 13, 2022
6:30 p.m.

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

1. The committee began the evening with a Mission Prayer Service.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – The minutes of the September 8, 2022 meeting were approved.
3. Liturgist's Update
 - Luke will forward the handouts and readings from this evening's prayer service and meeting to committee members via email.
 - The Stewardship Fair was held after masses on September 24th and 25th. Luke reported that 68 new people signed up that weekend over all of the areas represented, so it was felt to be very successful. Liturgical areas received 8 new volunteers; Eucharistic Adoration had 10 people sign up; and Kathy Fischer had 4 people sign up to bring holy communion to nursing homes. She only needs 1 or 2 more to re-start that ministry.
 - Serving the Coffee and Rolls on October 2nd went well.
 - Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) Update – Luke said MSP has been in place for 2-3 weeks. There are 125 people currently using it, which includes altar servers, sacristans, lectors and AV. Hospitality and EMHC will be added in November. The deacon will also be included in MSP scheduling. It was suggested to train the team captains first on the use of MSP and then the remainder of team members.
 - He noted that they have begun work to split the Hospitality Teams into Hospitality Desk, Greeters and Usher teams.
 - Safety Training – Parish safety training for all ushers and anyone else in the parish who is interested will be held Tuesday, November 29, 5:15-7:15 p.m. in the Great Hall and Church. A light meal will be served. Let Luke know if you plan to attend.
4. Ministry Retreat Session
 - Luke began by asking these questions: What is our Mission? What is most important to us? How do we restore our ministries?
 - He also reviewed some of the accomplishments in 2022 and, also, examples of areas where work is continuing. So far in 2022 in the areas of Liturgy & Music, the Liturgy Committee has helped to:
 - Restructure the EMHC process
 - Restructure the Sacristan process
 - Add approx. 10-20 new ministers in liturgical ministry ranks
 - Guide Holy Week collaboration efforts
 - Keep our church looking beautiful
 - Keep Eucharistic Adoration flowing
 - Add approx. 5-10 new musicians in our ranks
 - Host Valimar Jansen for a Lenten Mission
 - Host a successful Musician Showcase highlighting the gifts of our parish
 - Examples of more work to be done:
 - Gradual implementation of Minister Scheduler Pro software

- Finish restructuring lector needs
 - Finish restructuring hospitality needs
 - Prepare for Remembrance Service, Thanksgiving and Christmas season liturgies
 - Hoping to bring back bell choir and seasonal adult choir
 - Building up children's and young adult choirs
 - He said we need to solidify our mission, structure and goals. What can we still improve and smooth out?
 - Tonight's aim - Moving towards three questions:
 - What does it mean to serve on the Liturgy Committee?
 - What is our mission covenant?
 - What groundwork will we follow?
 - "Let All Be Received as Christ."
 - Committee members were split into four groups and assigned a section of the "Guidelines for the Parish Liturgy Committee" from the Diocese of Saint Cloud. The groups reviewed their section and then shared a highlight with the group.
5. Luke assigned committee members some homework: To read through the entire "Guidelines" document and familiarize themselves with the information. One of our next tasks is to craft our mission statement. Luke will send information via email to support that effort. He asked that members meet with their counterpart in ministry before the next Liturgy Committee meeting and begin to evaluate their ministry (What are we doing well? What can be improved? How do we communicate to other people in our ministry?) and then be ready to report back at the next meeting.
 6. Father Fred said we all know people who aren't coming to church here anymore. He asked what can we do, as a Liturgy Committee, to reach them and invite them back. We need to find out and deal with the reasons they aren't here.
 7. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Liturgy Committee will be November 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by:
Carol Gaffaney