

**Liturgy Committee Meeting**  
**Church of Saint Mary, Alexandria**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**

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

1. The committee began with prayer.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Motion by Dave Reller, seconded by Mary Gorghuber, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting. Motion approved.
3. Liturgist's Update
  - Holy Week was reviewed with the following feedback and discussion:
    - The greeters were very apparent and welcoming for all of the liturgies.
    - The Holy Thursday procession to the Great Hall needed ushers to direct the congregation when to process out. The chair set up in the Great Hall signals people where to go or not go. In order to get people to move further in to the Great Hall we might consider encircling the Altar of Repose with chairs or moving the Altar further back in the Great Hall.
    - Father Fred thanked all of the different ministries for the work they do, both visibly and behind the scenes, to make Holy Week run smoothly and help everyone participate fully in the liturgies.
    - For some ministry areas (i.e. altar servers), it was necessary for Luke to reach out and personally invite individuals to volunteer.
    - Should baptisms during the Easter Vigil be at the baptismal font in order to include the blessing of the font? But should we keep baptisms during mass throughout the rest of the year inside the church? Should older children be baptized at the font to avoid needing to be held? There was no consensus.
    - In the past, prior to COVID, the Palm Sunday procession and waving of palms was more active and apparent. The procession included entire families with many children participating in the past. Often a parent held the basket while school age children handed out palms. The congregation was invited to wave their palms, which even if we were in our pews, made it feel like a procession.
    - Having Marlys part of the process was a huge part of the success.
    - Luke did a good job communicating when help was needed this year. Continue to reach out to key leaders within the various ministries and on the Liturgy Committee approximately 1.5 weeks before hand to help fill remaining volunteer spots.
    - Placing volunteer sign ups on the wall dividers is much more visible as people exit church, versus placing them on tables. Having a person at the sign-up sheets also encourages people to stop.
    - Some people avoid our large liturgies because of difficulty parking. Should we consider making the entire parish office parking lot handicap parking for Holy Thursday, Easter, and Christmas? Strong communication would be needed in advance.

- Can we develop a system that would let the ushers know help is needed with parking or other special needs/health issues (i.e. sitting in the back pew near the ushers if a known medical condition warrants immediate assistance)?
  - Additional things that might help include: fresh paint marking the handicap parking spots; eliminating coffee & rolls between the 8 & 10 masses that run longer (i.e. Palm Sunday).
  - The rubrics call for the Paschal Candle placed either next to the ambo or in the middle of the sanctuary and the Exsultet is to be sung to the candle.
  - The Easter Vigil Psalms need to be sung well, with the verse text clearly proclaimed. Would it be possible to print the verse text on the screens for the Easter Vigil? Should the readings simply be proclaimed in spoken word rather than sung to help the assembly grasp their meaning better? What is the intention or benefit of singing the readings?
  - It would be nice to bring back the sung Solemn Intercessions on Good Friday, if the Deacon/Priest/Psalmist possess the necessary skills and comfort level to do so.
  - Training and an opportunity to practice sprinkling with our aspergillums is needed for all carrying out the sprinkling rite during Easter season. Many are not getting an appropriate amount of water sprinkled on the congregation.
- Clarification on scheduling teams during months with 5 weekends was provided. Teams are rotated through the 5th weekends as they occur, resulting in 1 team serving 2 times in that month (i.e. Team 1 serves the 5th weekend of April 2023, Team 2 serves the 5th weekend of July 2023, etc.).
  - After much discussion, it was concluded to implement Ministry Scheduler Pro with the remaining ministries (weekend Eucharistic Minister and Hospitality teams) either in July or August, dependent upon Luke's availability. It was also recommended to train Liturgy Committee members to be troubleshooters for Ministry Scheduler Pro.
4. Priests' Updates
- Father Matt is helping with First Communion prep in another parish tonight.
  - Father Rick mentioned several of the upcoming events (First Communion, Pentecost, Corpus Christi).
5. Your Needs and Updates
- Sue McCulloch provided details about the upcoming Corpus Christi Procession (June 11 after the 10:00 mass) and 40 Hours Devotion (ACC event August 10-12 in Osakis).
  - Luke announced that he was able to book Sarah Hart for July 16-17.
  - The Diocesan Rural Life Celebration will be August 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Belle River. Many volunteers will be needed throughout the day.
  - Earth Day is this weekend, April 22. St. Mary's Stewardship Committee will be handing out tree seedlings after the April 29/30 masses.
6. Liturgy Committee Education Session & Discussion
- Our discussion of The Apostolic Letter Desiderio Desideravi of the Holy Father Francis was paused to reassess what our goal is with the Education Session and Discussion. Is this just a box to be checked? Is understanding this critical document achievable if we continue as we have been doing? Would we learn more if we were each asked to teach a section of the document? Are we strong enough to get it wrong? Should we each be matched with a priest/liturgist mentor?

- May is our last planned meeting until Fall. Should we be following the school year or meeting year round?
  - Mary volunteered to teach paragraphs 1-5 at our next meeting.
7. Next Meeting
    - Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. Meal included.
  8. Closing Prayer
    - Led by Luke.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jody Koubsky