

**Liturgy Committee Meeting**  
**Church of Saint Mary, Alexandria**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Present: Father Rick Aubol, Bonnie Broman, Father Fred Fink, Char Hanson, Jody Koubsky, Father Matthew Kuhn, Grace Lambert, Sue McCulloch, Deacon Tony Pasko, Stephanie Rutten-Ramos, Luke VanOverbeke, and Bill Verschaetse. Absent: Janice Doebber, Kevin Gorghuber, Tammy Huss, Adrian Panther, and Erin Takle.

1. The meeting began with prayer.
2. Open Forum
  - Luke stated that this section of the agenda has been added for parishioners to share concerns and comments. Committee members should encourage parishioners to reach out to Luke prior to attending a meeting so that Luke is able to welcome them, provide a realistic time limit, prepare any materials, etc.
  - Father Fred has been asked why we are not able to display the verse text to the psalms on the screens. In Erin's absence, a detailed explanation of copyright laws was not able to be given. Luke, Father Rick, and Jody stated it's their understanding that printing the verse text would be in violation of copyright laws. Further explanation from Erin at the next meeting she attends would be helpful for all. Reminders or additional training for psalmists to be mindful of dictating clearly could also help.
  - Deacon Tony stated we need to be attentive to any funerals that are more than 2 weeks past the date of death, since we only include intercessory prayers for two weeks for those that have died. A recent funeral occurred 3 weeks after the date of death, so we did not pray for the deceased at mass despite his/her funeral occurring that day.
  - Bill has been working with Todd to address the need for additional handicap parking at large masses and events, with one idea being posting a sign stating: "This parking lot is handicap only for all special events and weekend masses." Concerns were brought forward if there truly was a need for this at all weekend masses as well as the importance of communicating and educating parishioners before posting such a sign. Bill has had several people share with him that the parking situation, especially during Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and other large events, has prevented them from attending. After much discussion, it was suggested that Hospitality Ministers first assess how many handicap parking spaces are empty during several regular weekend masses. If there is an apparent need for additional handicap parking at regular weekend masses, then communicating at mass a request for able bodied parishioners to park a little further away. The honor system would be used, especially since people without official handicap parking stickers may still legitimately need to park closer to the entrance for various reasons. Additionally, a system should continue to be developed that welcomes people of all abilities and needs to St. Mary's masses and special events, especially before the Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week liturgies.
  - Several parishioners have requested an easy to read, printable pdf, monthly calendar listing the main activities, masses, speakers, etc. A good rule of thumb would be if it's announced, it should be included on the monthly calendar.
3. Liturgist's Update

- Luke shared upcoming events:
    - 10/16 Hospitality Captain Meeting and Video Recording
    - 10/24 Ministry Scheduler Pro Open House
    - 11/1 All Saints - Relics will be in the Glass V, we will have security cameras installed by then. Luke asked for ideas of how to make All Saints a little extra special. Grace shared an idea to have the St. Mary's School kids decorate pumpkins as their favorite Saints and then use those to decorate our courtyard and entrances.
    - 11/5 Remembrance Service - Invitations will go out to family members of deceased parishioners from all 3 parishes in the ACC this year. The deceased from all 3 parishes will be included in the Reading of Names.
    - 11/22 - Ecumenical Service - will be held at St. Mary's again this year
    - 11/23 - Community Thanksgiving Meal - First Lutheran is helping cook turkey's this year.
    - St. Mary's Christmas Mass Times will be 4:00 pm Christmas Eve and 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day.
  - A postcard with Christmas mass times will be mailed out again this year. It would be great if this was mailed out early enough to include all of the Penance Services included as well.
4. Priests' Updates
- Father Matt stated in light of the Israel-Hamas war, he will be including the St. Michael Prayer for Peace & Protection at this weekend's masses.
5. Education Session & Discussion
- Our discussion of The Apostolic Letter Desiderio Desideravi of the Holy Father Francis continued with Luke presenting Paragraphs 17-20. A few key thoughts discussed by the group were:
    - How do we make everyone understand that there are many ways to express our Catholic faith? Many of these expressions of faith are optional, but not everyone understands this. How do we accept each other despite our different ways of expressing our faith?
    - Who can I take by the hand in Christ's name?
    - What keeps us from realizing we are the body of Christ?
  - Sue volunteered to teach paragraphs 21-24 at our next meeting.
6. Calendar of Events
- Included in Liturgist's Update.
7. Other Ministry Needs/Ongoing Discussion
- Skipped
8. Closing Prayer
- Led by Luke.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jody Koubsky