

Stewardship Committee Meeting

January 9, 2025 12:00 – Parish Office Conference Room

Purpose: “To help foster and develop in our parishioners a sense of belonging, commitment, and involvement in our Christian community resulting in stewardship as a way of life”

Present: Ron Boyden, Tammy Huss, Dan Kirscht, Aaron Korynta, Jerry Kostreba, Jake Mach, Josh Waltzing (Pastoral Council Liaison) & Todd Wentworth

Absent: Randy Meyer, Fr. Matthew Kuhn (on sabbatical)

Opening Prayer – on Sharing and Gratitude. Jerry shared his recent “heartfelt experience” with the Small Mall event in which he witnessed gratitude and joy from the children and adults who participated, especially those from the jail & adult/teen challenge, as well from volunteers.

Updates:

We have begun a new year which brings a **rotation in roles**. Jerry has succeeded Ron as Chair, Aaron is now Vice Chair and Dan is Secretary.

Financial Peace University will begin Sunday, January 26th from 6:00 – 8:00. Dan and Aaron will lead it again this year. This is the 4th consecutive year St. Mary’s will be offering the class. So far there are two couples registered and Fr. Dan will make an announcement this weekend to boost awareness. The Unity group is also hosting an FPU class starting near the same time. General discussed followed of methods of promotion to parish and school families.

The **Fr. McGread Conference** will be March 19th and 20th this year. Father Matthew is encouraging staff and committee leaders to attend.

Ministry Moments – the Youth Group will be doing a Ministry Moment at the February 8th and 9th Masses. In April there may be a Ministry Moment for the Missions group. General discussion surrounding a recent Ministry Moment request which ultimately did not qualify based on content.

Randy was not present to provide a **Diocesan update**. Todd however did discuss the recent “All Things New” initiative by Bishop Neary. All ACC’s are to create a new planning committee – scope, parameters, and tasks are all TBD. What is known is a presentation to the Diocese will be required seeking approval before the implementation date of January 2026. If ACC’s don’t get this done, Bishop Neary will step in and make decisions. Father Matthew has provided Todd with a list of individuals he feels would perform well as volunteers supporting this initiative for our ACC. More will be known in the months ahead.

Reminder Ash Wednesday is on March 5th and Easter Sunday April 20th.

Todd is starting to think about building the **Legacy Dinner Team**. Father Matthew wants this to happen this year. We are hoping to get volunteers from the Stewardship and Finance Council, then beyond. Tentative planning start date in March or April.

Much of the meeting time was spent discussing the agenda item “**What Else Can We Do?**”. Early parts of the discussion focused on our identity and journey as “a stewardship parish”. What do we mean when we identify as this? How can we identify as this while at the same time saying “we’re not there yet”. It

can be confusing to some parishioners, anecdotally it seems more so for younger members of our parish. It was noted St. Mary's is much further along in our journey than most other parishes are. Discussion then shifted to the Stewardship Committee and its role and purpose. It was agreed this was an important subject, along with identity as a parish as a stewardship parish, that should command much of our time in our February meeting.

Josh shared a Pastoral Update which touched on the "All Things New" topic Todd had shared earlier. Overall fairly quiet with Father Matthew's upcoming Sabbatical. Conversation began to center around new members or inactive members – considering prior discussion about St. Mary's identity. How can we do more to welcome them in or invite them back? Individual members shared personal stories of their experience being welcomed (or not) into the parish when they joined, or their experiences in other parishes (Sioux Falls was brought up – each new parishioner / family had a scheduled meeting with the pastor). The big question is – who "does" all these things? Is it driven by the Parish/Parish Staff or parishioners? The obvious answer is both – but what does that mean and ought that look like? It was agreed that more discussion was required, however, in the short-term, there was overwhelming consensus the Evangelization team should be a primary player in these discussions. Todd agreed to speak with Father to get his blessing to reinstate Evangelization team and overall initiative.

The group agreed the current meeting time was working well for everyone.

Closing Prayer by the entire Committee around 1:35

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 2nd Thursday of every month – 12:00.
- February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8