

The Church of Saint Mary
Liturgy Committee Meeting
December 12, 2024
6:30-8:00 pm

Present: Fr. Matthew Kuhn, Fr. Fred Fink, Deacon Tony Pasko, Bonnie Broman, Kevin Gorghuber, Char Hanson, Tammy Huss, Grace Lambert, Sue McCulloch, Stephanie Rutten-Ramos, and Luke VanOverbeke. Absent: Fr. Dan Ruprecht, Jody Koubsky, Erin Tackle, and Bill Verschaetse.

I. Opening Prayer

Adrian led us in the opening prayer.

The November 14 meeting minutes had one correction. In IV, the last sentence, there should be a period after “Jesus loves you very much.”

II. Open Forum

Stephanie continued to lead the committee in the process of developing a vision statement. Each committee member selected their favorite comment from our November 14 meeting that answered the two questions: (1) What do we do? and (2) Why do we exist? Stephanie will provide a summary of those comments to help us narrow down our vision statement. At our next meeting, we will discuss the last two questions: (1) Who is Liturgy Committee, and (2) What does success/effectiveness look like?

III. Calendar Update

Luke restated the scheduled days for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Solemnity of Holy Mary Mother of God Vigil and Day Masses, as well as Ash Wednesday.

Luke stated parking restrictions will be put into play for the 4 pm Christmas Mass, but not the 7 pm or 9 am Masses. This worked well for Palm Sunday. There are 2 big signs that state “handicap parking only” which will be controlled by the honor system. All possible means of communication will be used to inform people of this parking change, i.e., email blast, bulletin, 2 full weekends of announcements prior to Christmas.

Tammy will ask the Confirmation students if they would like to help and be “steady arms for the elderly” for the 4 pm Christmas Mass due to wintery weather around the Christmas season.

IV. Ministry Needs & Parishioner Experiences

Bylaws – Stephanie tabled any discussion until our next meeting.

Training – Luke met with sacristans; training for hospitality captains is next Thursday. Lector and server training will be done in the spring.

Anointing of the Sick – Fr. Matthew stated there was great participation on the 1st Sunday in December. He stated there may have been “catch up” going on so that increased the numbers, so next month’s numbers may be down. Fr. Matthew or Fr. Dan will announce at the pulpit the next Anointing of the Sick.

Parishioner Experiences: Luke stated a young couple made the following suggestions for our Liturgies:

- Have a kneeler in front of Fr. Matthew’s communion line for safety reasons
- Have the chapel doors open before final procession
- More organ music
- Increased use of incense
- Could a “dress code” be enforced?

The couple stated that if these could not be implemented at all Masses, perhaps they could be in small ways throughout the year.

Kevin stated the Confession Service was well attended and well done. Fr. Matthew appreciated the service being pushed back one week for greater readiness for Confession by parishioners.

Tammy mentioned an out-of-town guest stated the Confirmation Mass “was the best she has been to.”

Fr. Fred would like to see a “heightened awareness” at our parish for the January 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

V. Priest Updates

Fr. Matthew reminded everyone that Fr. Dan will be in charge when he is away in Rome at his sabbatical. Fr. Dan will attend the Liturgy Committee meetings.

Fr. Matthew stated the Catechetical Teaching that was presented to the Liturgy Committee some time ago by Mike Sponsler will start on Ash Wednesday. A typed up “Ministry Minute” was presented and the committee approved.

VI. Education Piece

Stephanie stated to keep in mind when reading the book, *Liturgy Made Simple*, to ask (1) what we as a parish are doing well and, (2) what needs to be improved.

Adrian summarized Chapter 2, part i. well. It was stated in the book the Introductory Rites “are to prepare the people to take part in the Mass by hearing the Word of God, to pray, and to celebrate the Eucharist. Also, the Penitential Rite provides for a moment of silent recollection...not so much a moment for asking forgiveness for our personal sins as

for asking God to forgive our failure to live together as a sign to the world, as the Body of Christ.”

St. Mary’s Church does the following well regarding the Rites and Liturgy of the Word:

- Screens that show the readings and theme for the weekend
- The Cantor that reads a few lines about the readings and “sets the tone.”
- The Lectors and how they do allow the parishioners to sit and be still before reading the Word of God.
- The music to allow us to know we are in the presence of God

Improvements include: Having the reader slow down so there are fewer audible issues.

VII. Goals

Not reviewed on account of time.

VIII. Recap and Closing Prayer

Tammy agreed to take minutes at our January meeting.

Kevin agreed to lead us in prayer.

Adrian agreed to lead us through Chapter 2, part ii of the book *Liturgy Made Simple*.

Luke would like help with coffee and rolls on December 22 for the 8:00 am Mass and the 10:00 am Mass. Grace and Bonnie said yes. If you can help, please contact Luke.

Adrian led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue McCulloch
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