

Saint Mary Parish
Franklin, MA
Parish Pastoral Council
Sacred Heart Hall

Meeting Notes for February 13, 2023

The meeting officially opened with the prayer from Book of Blessings #552. The prayer was led by Father Brian Manning and read aloud by all present.

There were no questions/concerns regarding the agenda.

Parish Mission Statement – Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate

Leo was present to share with the Parish Pastoral Council a new initiative that is focused on the Parish Mission Statement. The goals of the initiative are to:

- Increase awareness of the parish mission statement among parishioners.
- To involve all parish ministry groups in assessing and, if necessary, in re-aligning their work in light of the parish mission statement.

The project will enable each ministry to see how their respective ministry is part of the whole mission. Additionally, when shared, it enables the parish community to know more about the parish mission and the contributions of the parish ministry groups to the achievement of the mission.

To participate in this examination of mission, the PPC needs to meet and assess how its work aligns with the overarching parish mission. There are five elements to consider when reflecting on alignment:

- Honor and glorify God.
- Imitate the life of Jesus and be inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Assist parishioners in their growth in the knowledge and love of Jesus.
- Encourage all parishioners to be active members of the parish.
- Bring Jesus' teachings outside of our parish.

A date will be identified for the PPC members to gather and discuss the PPC's contributions to the mission of the Parish.

Report of our Parish – Father Brian

- Personnel Update
- 201 Main Street –
 - The Archdiocesan Real Estate Department will be writing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hear from developers who are interested in the property.
 - There is a Carriage House demolition hearing scheduled with the Franklin Historical Commission.

- Covid Update
 - Communion will continue to be received in the hand.
 - Eucharistic Ministers will continue to wear masks.
 - Collection baskets will remain at the doors of the church.
 - Holy water is in place.
 - The distanced seating area will be maintained on the Main Street side of the church.
- Increased Offertory Program
 - Offertory is increasing.
 - It is five (5) years since parishioners were asked to increase donations.
 - Parishioners understand the need and are responding.
- Reduction in number of priests
 - No priests are available to fill in.
 - There are 140-150 retired priests helping in parishes.
- Volunteer Information Form, Archdiocesan Office of Child Advocacy
 - Father Brian distributed a Volunteer Information Form for each person to complete. All volunteers, experienced and new, need to complete the form.

Website – Father Brian

- For September through December 2022 (4 months)
 - 17,728 website visits
 - 34,220 page views
 - An increase of 91% in new users from 11, 742 total users
 - Pages most visited: Home; Events and Announcements; Mass and Confession Times; Religious Education; and Index

Stations of the Cross – Father Brian

- Organized by Fr. Brian with support from Deacon Ron
- Six groups; following format of previous years
- First service, February 24

Other Matters -

- **Icon of Saint Joseph** – Jim Lane and Mike Swan
 - Knights of Columbus, Massachusetts, is sponsoring the Icon of St. Joseph
 - The Icon of St. Joseph will be at St. Mary Parish this weekend, in the upper church.
 - Sacred prayer moment
- **Baccalaureate Mass**
 - Under consideration
- **Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers** are needed.

Closing Prayer – Father Jack

Note: Next meeting of Parish Pastoral Council is April 10, 2023.