

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

Meeting Notes, October 10, 2022

The meeting informally opened at 7:00 pm. Each person shared their name and ministry work in the Parish.

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

There were no questions/concerns regarding the agenda.

Report of our Parish – Father Brian

- Personnel update

- Adult Faith Formation
 - Women’s Faith Formation – strong leadership, will continue
 - Men’s Faith Formation – needs more direction and leadership, will continue
 - Bible Study Group – Initiative led by Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate. Will use Natural Group format and be located at Magnolia Heights.
 - Programs associated with Advent and Lent.
 - Advent is a busy time of year, as many weekends are already committed. The 3rd weekend in Advent will include a program currently being developed.
 - Lent – Father Brian will lead the weekly Stations of the Cross using the group leadership format. This has been well-received the past few years and will continue.

- Baptism – Deacon Ron will lead this initiative. Pre-Baptism Catechesis will be conducted through Zoom and through video. These formats were included during Covid and have been well-received by parents and families. They find it interesting and helpful. The distance format through Zoom and/or video fits well with the families.

- Rosary - Will continue via zoom; has strong leadership

- Safety – St. Mary Parish will continue its high safety standards, as we continue with Covid.
 - Holy Communion will be received in a flat, outstretched hand. This is out of safety for Eucharistic Ministers.
 - The seating area on the Main Street side of the church is reserved for those who want to socially distance and wear masks.
 - Masks are welcome in any part of the church

- Cori Weekends – October 15/16 and October 22/23. ALL parish volunteers need to complete a Cori form (unless they completed on in the last week or so). All need to bring a Driver's License with them.
- Protecting God's Children, Phase Two – Will begin in the next six (6) months.
 - The priests have already participated in this supplemental training
 - Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate, will lead this effort and use the Train the Trainer model
 - There will be new and improved information
- Mass attendance
 - There is a small increase each week in Mass attendance
 - The 10:30 am Mass has the largest attendance numbers ... ~ 250 to 275.
 - The 12:00 noon is growing. This is an important time to hold Mass, as the colder winter months approach.

Religious Education update – Karen Ackles, Religious Education Director

- Confirmation
 - Very successful this year
 - Three (3) Confirmation services; no Mass
 - Most Reverend Robert P. Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston presided
 - Elegant and simple
- Religious education classes
 - Enrollment down
 - First Grade study takes place at home. They attend in person one time around Christmas and a second time at the end of the religious education year.
 - The other grades follow different schedules bringing them into the classroom every three (3) weeks.
 - Grade two (2) and grades nine (9) and ten (10) have special schedules
 - Grades 9 and 10 will have a special Mass and speaker on November 6
 - 12 Noon Mass
 - Speaker – Colette (Colletley's Cookies) Colette was born with Down Syndrome. She will share her story and mission following the Mass.

Patrimony/201 Main Street – Father Brian

- Patrimony – the goods of the parish
- 5+ acres that include the school building (and modular structure) and the carriage house
- Question at hand: How can this resource serve the long-term mission and need of the Parish?
- Long process with many steps
 - Opportunity for parishioners to express opinions and ask questions
 - 140 suggestions received
- Space (land and building) needed for –

- Faith formation activities for all ages
- Parking
- Rest to be developed to pay for the above
- Receiving guidance from Deborah Dillon, Director of Property Services at Archdiocese of Boston
- Patrimony committee – Roberta Trahan (former parish council member), Chris Feeley (former parish council member), Tom Duval (Parish Finance Committee), Tom Curran (Parish Finance Committee), Trish Murphy (Parish Finance and Operations Manager), Father Jack (Parochial Vicar), Father Brian (Pastor), Matt Kelly (Franklin realtor)
- Description –
 - Proposed new structure to be in area of current Carriage House
 - Enter from Pleasant Street
 - Exit onto Queen Street
 - Parking for 75 to 80 cars
 - Two stories; may be built on concrete slab or on a cellar level (that will include appropriate windows and safety features)
 - Offices on the first floor
 - Flexible classroom/meeting spaces on the second floor
 - Solar cells
 - Heat pumps
 - Exterior to incorporate design that is similar to Haywood Manor
- Decisions –
 - Determination made by the Pastor with sign off by the Archdiocese
 - Revenue generated – 18% of rental income or net sales price goes to Archdiocese.
- Many details to be resolved
- Father Brian will continue to keep the PPC updated
- If the PPC has questions/observations, they are to email Father Brian the week of October 10.

Other matters - Members

- John Determan raised the issue of signage that would inform and welcome. He noted signage would be helpful in spreading the word about services and events at St. Mary Parish. Members will take notice of signage on parish grounds.
- The Knights of Columbus will be recognizing Bob Catalano for his service to our Parish at the 12 Noon Mass on the last Sunday in October (October 30).

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer, The Glory Be, was led by Father Jack