

Saint Mary Parish
Franklin, MA
Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes: September 20, 2021

Present: Father Brian Manning, Pastor; Father Jack Sullivan, Parochial Vicar; Karen Ackles, Religious Education Director; Terry Kerr, Director of Music; Tricia Murphy, Business Manager; Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate; Deacon Guy (arrived after 7 pm Rosary)

Council Members: Paula Coughlin, Ed Croak, John Determan, Christopher Feeley, Faith Flaherty, Paula Marano, Lorraine Schratz, Mike Swan, Roberta Trahan

Welcome: The meeting was opened by Roberta Trahan who welcomed all members

Prayer: the opening prayer from Book of Blessings was read by Father Brian

Report of our Parish: Father Brian reports: Phase Two Pandemic: We are still in the Pandemic but coming out; the plan is to minister and care with safety and caution

Christmas Eve and Easter planning already begun

- **Liturgical:** Saturday/Sunday Masses have resumed
- Attendance is taken at each mass and is recorded on attachment sent with agenda, felt to be 99% accurate
- Social Distancing continues formally in the designated and reserved area and informally in the rest of the church
- Delta variant has decreased attendance
- Word of mouth that mass is safe is ongoing
- Growth is slow
- 12 noon mass was added September 12th; will monitor to ensure it is needed as cost per mass must be considered; reduced income about 25%. Critical need will always be considered, but fiscal responsibility is necessary
- December: will make a plan for next year
- Reception of Holy Eucharist outdoors at Christmas and Easter is in the planning again this year
- Weekday masses continue; Father Brian told a story of the impact daily mass has had on vocations

- Livestream technology was costly but is in place; this is a wonderful option both for Covid concerns and for parishioners who are unable to attend mass due to other issues
- Funerals and Weddings are live streamed per family request
- Baptisms: singular; Saturday and Sunday as needed; parent classes have not resumed, parents watch a film via the web
- Music is back and welcomed! Choir to resume, this is a good sign! Music sheets will continue for safety; Liturgical Books will return the Sunday after Thanksgiving
- Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors have restarted

Programs:

Leo Racine, our new part time Pastoral Associate reports:

- Leo told the group a bit about himself and his family
- He has reached out to Nursing Homes/Institutions to determine their need
- He is very familiar with CORI/PGC programs and will continue both

Religious Education: Karen Ackles reports:

- Last year was remote 100%
- Students did great work, often more than was required
- Karen sent out weekly emails to parents with updates/suggestions
- Karen conducted a survey wt the end of the year, the results were about evenly divided for remote vs. in person
- October 1 is the planned beginning of CCD this year per Archdiocese
- We are following Town and State recommendations
- Teacher shortages are significant; Karen will reach out to FHS students
- Karen outlined the 1st and 2nd grade classes switching off; we are not using the Main School building, but rather the Modular classrooms

Programs: Deacon Guy reports:

- Women's Spirituality Group resumed September 19th with 19 attendees; will continue on the Second Saturday from 9:30 to 10:30 am
- Men's Spirituality Group will begin October 16th and continue on the 3rd Saturday from 8:45 to 9:45 am
- Rosary continues on Monday evenings from 7 to 7:30 pm with about 22 attendees
- These programs will remain remote via Zoom

Pastoral Plan Draft III: Father Brian reports; this plan is based on Plan I

- Vocations continue to be a priority
- Modern health practices dictate reception of the holy Eucharist in the hand
- Lessons from the Pandemic: person to person interactions can be expanded via electronic technology but only after relationships have been established/formed
- Catholic TV is provided by the Archdiocese
- Constant Contact has been invaluable as a communication tool:
Communication=Evangelization

Other Matters: members had the opportunity to ask questions

Closing Prayer: lead by Father Jack

We will continue to meet via Google Meets or Zoom until further direction from the State and/or Archdiocese.

Enjoy the Fall!

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Trahan