



**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
November 10, 2020**

**Council Members Present:** Mike Anderson, Chas Bellock, Mary Kienstra, Liz Kruk, Dan Lawler, Chris Lupo, Anne Lysaught, Kathy O'Rourke, Elizabeth Rancich, Barb Ryan, Terry Wagner

**Council Members Absent:** Joey Rose, Fr. Paul Hottinger

Please note: Discussions at this meeting were had in context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

OPENING AND PRAYER: Tonight's meeting was held via Google Meets conferencing tool. Kathy O'Rourke supplied the prayer and Terry Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2020 MINUTES: All members agreed to approve the minutes, none opposed. Minutes approved.

- Becca will follow up with Julie Duffin on getting the July and September minutes on the website. Additionally, she will make sure all commission reports are provided to Julie as well.

FEEDBACK ON VISIT BY BISHOP HICKS, OUTDOOR MASS, ANNUAL REPORT, AND ASCA FINANCIAL SUPPORT from Terry Wagner

- Fr. Paul received feedback that the ASCA situation was well-explained.
- Overall, people heard very good things about the outdoor mass and the opportunity to hear the Bishop.
  - There were questions about why we couldn't do outdoor masses all

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Julie Duffin

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION REPORT  
November, 2020

1. ADVENTURES IN CONTEMPLATION –Plans are being made for a January 2021 online retreat for this group. During November a Sunday evening Examen is being offered.
2. BIBLE STUDY – Semester I for Bible Study ended on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. The dates for Semester II are Jan 12 – March 9<sup>th</sup>
3. SATURDAY MORNING LIVE---On Oct. 23 Sam Goodwin gave an outstanding presentation on "Captured in Uncertainty." We provided an Encore event on Nov. 15 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. 80 parishioners and their friends attended via Zoom. On November 21<sup>st</sup> we had a panel presentations by frontline medical workers. They spoke about what it is like during this time of pandemic. 28 attended.
4. MORNING ENRICHMENT- "My Holy Family" was the topic for our Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> session. Joyce Donahue from the Diocesan Rel. Ed. Office gave us many ideas for building domestic churches. 17 attended. On Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Marissa Griffith and Vince Keenan will provide a Morning of Reflection..."Waiting For God."
5. EVENING ENRICHMENT: On Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, Terry Nelson-Johnson will speak on "Lord, Keep Us Busy Being Born"
6. WOMEN'S CAFE – Dec. 3 marks the date of the next Cafe. The session will have an Advent/Christmas theme.
8. RETREATS: John Blumberg and Sr. Madelyn have met twice to plan for the 2021 retreats.. All retreats will be presented virtually. Invitations to the Women's Winter Retreat will begin to appear in the bulletin
9. JOURNEY ON: Nov. 22 was the date for the Advent Journey On session. 17 attended. It was inspiring to hear how the women already pray and how interested they are in learning new ways of praying.
- 10: RCIA –
11. SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Sessions are being held by phone or Zoom
12. PARISH MISSION: Fr. Tom McCarthy OSA is our reflector for the 2021 Mission. Topic: 'Our Restless Journey.' Due to the Covid restrictions, the Mission will only be one evening--- January 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 pm. Fr. Tom will preach at all the Masses on January 16 and 17, encouraging people to attend virtually.

Sr. Madelyn

Based on the number of rising cases, a couple of possible Covid exposures, and guidance from the Diocese we decided to temporarily suspend in person Confirmation Preparation, Peer Ministry, and Dare Greatly. We notified our families that they would be using the Ascension Press Digital Platform that was set up for them in the fall. Peer Ministry and Dare Greatly will have video meetings for the next few weeks. The Diocese also recommended that we suspend any in person instruction for two weeks following the holidays which would include our December 6<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup> sessions. We will continue evaluating based on the guidance from the Diocese and the State.

Two of our Peer Ministers notified us of positive Covid test results and after consultation with the Diocese, notified both our 9th grade and Peer Ministry families that potentially had contact with them. Because of our diligent following of all of the health and safety protocols, they were fairly certain that the chance of spread was very low and were not overly concerned.

We were able move forward with our Confirmation for Juniors on November 20th and 21st. We had a total of 65 candidates being confirmed including 4 from St. Raphael Parish. We have at least 7 candidates who are waiting to be confirmed in the Spring in the hopes that our restrictions might be different. The liturgies went very well with Fr. Paul and Deacons Ken and Terry presiding, music by Julie Leichtman and Becca Veys, and help from a number of volunteers.

Peace,  
Dan

November 2020  
Faith Formation – Gr. K-8

We are having a virtual Advent large group family Zoom on November 30 where Fr. Paul will address all in regards to the season of Advent as well as Marissa Griffith. Our 4th graders are presenting their Jesse tree ornaments virtually. Our Christmas large group family event is the Monday before Christmas, and we are seeking out kids and families to lead us in prayer and Scripture. Our students are participating in a service project making handmade Christmas cards for the needy. All Gr. K-2 students were provided with an Advent poster/sticker activity that we normally distribute after masses.

For those catechists challenged by Zoom teaching, we have met with them either in person or virtually to assist them with functions such as practicing screen sharing and using our new Google drive. Catechists are sharing wonderful resources there, and Sepha is uploading many resources for them as well, specifically Advent and Christmas ideas.

First Reconciliation: For those who opted for the home study sacramental preparation option, they have sent in copies of their completed textbook pages and a family reflection, which demonstrated the preparedness of the candidates to receive the sacrament. The virtual retreat was held on Saturday, November 7th, and the students were very much engaged and almost all of the candidates were present. Our parent/child night was a success where Fr. Paul discussed in-depth details of the sacrament, and the students witnessed a mock reconciliation. Only parents and students making the sacrament are invited to the service on December 2 due to capacity limits. This year 7 volunteers are needed to help with the service as well as 4 priests. We are expecting around 40 candidates and 5 will post-pone until next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jacqui Snyder

# CWC Report

December 2020

## **Altar Servers**

No report.

*Ken Miles*

## **Art and Environment**

AE needs a few volunteers for Sunday, Dec 20th afternoon for set up for Christmas celebrations.

If anyone can spare an hour or so that would help so much.

*Jill Mizen*

## **Baptism Assistants**

Deacon Ken would like to resume the use of Baptism Assistants at weekend baptisms. I have reached out to members of this ministry, and have gotten a few volunteers to assist as needed.

*Submitted by Bob Presnak*

## **Bread Bakers**

No report.

*Brigid Harren*

## **Communications/Volunteers:**

No report.

*Patty Curran*

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

Recruited volunteers to help with Confirmation Masses.

*Submitted by Bill Hassett*

## **Family Altar Servers**

Inactive

*Mary Oliphant*

## **Greeters**

No report.

*Submitted by Desmond Curran*

### **Linen Launderers**

No report.

*Submitted by Loretta Mercandante*

### **Liturgy Coordinator**

Current Christmas plans; Christmas Eve Masses at 3 pm and 10:30 pm (with music before the Mass); Christmas Day Masses at 9 and 11 am. Usual in-person limits and protocols, with streaming of all but the 11 am Mass. If there is enough demand, Fr. Paul is open to doing a 5 pm Mass as well. No children's Mass or pageant. Deacons have begun assisting at Mass this Advent season and preaching once a month.

*Submitted by Deacon Ken Miles*

### **Lectors**

No report.

*Felice Chillemi*

### **Music Ministry**

- Thank you to Becca Veys and Julie Leichtman for providing music at the three Confirmations over two days.
- I spoke with Mike Prus regarding the next steps in hiring a Director of Music. I will provide this information to Liturgy Development and CWC.
- Scheduling additional vocalists and instrumentalists to sing and play at Advent and Christmas liturgies. Planned Musicians: piano, cantor, possible drummer, guitar/violin, 2 vocalists,
- Scheduling musicians to cover weekend Masses, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Reconciliation service, retreats, weddings and funerals.
- Mary Mulligan is planning and presenting a Taizé service for December 6 at 7:00 PM. It will be in church, but it will be a live streamed event only.

*Submitted by Brian Pelz*

### **Sacristans**

No report.

*Submitted by Barb Ryan*

### **Sanitizers**

We need volunteers for ALL of the Christmas Masses.

*Submitted by Steve Griffin*

## CWC meeting minutes Nov 11, 2020

- Opening Prayer
  - Bob began the meeting at 7:00pm with an opening prayer.
- Confirmations
  - Friday, November 20, 7pm; Saturday, November 21, 10am and 12:30pm.
  - Dan Lawler is the lead as far as planning and volunteer needs.
  - Bishop Kane was supposed to preside at all of the Confirmations, but is currently under quarantine for Covid-19. Therefore, Fr. Paul will confirm all of our candidates.
- Fr. Paul's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - November 22; 9am Mass; Mary Oliphant coordinating the Liturgy with Deacon Ken.
  - Gift from the Parish was approved by the PC; Sandy Renehan and Barb Ryan coordinating; PC President Terry Wagner will present the gifts at the end of Fr. Paul's Anniversary Mass.
  - Julie Duffin creating communications regarding the celebration.
- Annual Remembrance Mass
  - Postponed because of Covid-19.
- Thanksgiving Day Mass
  - No blessing of food baskets.
  - Will offer a sign-up for attendees but not for volunteers. Assuming sanitizing will be handled by one of the custodians.
  - Reach out to Joan Noonan regarding whether the daily Mass volunteers will want to handle the greeting, etc.
  - Barb will follow up to make sure that all volunteer roles are covered.
- Taizé Service

-Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM; planned by Mary Mulligan

-Because of the surge in DuPage County Covid-19 cases, the Governor has returned the county to Tier 2 mitigation status; now only 10 people may attend; if we are able to return to Tier 3 mitigation before the event, 25 people can attend; it will be streamed to parishioners.

-Barb will contact Mary to inform her of the situation.

-Ken will identify a tech person to stream.

- Reconciliation Service with David Schimmel

-Monday, December 14, 7pm.

-Like Taizé, the number of attendees will be dependent on the Tier we are in.

-30 minutes in length.

-If we return to Tier 3, we will need a sign-up for attendees and volunteers; up to 50 people.

-Use center pews only.

-Need 1 lector, 3 greeters, 2 sanitizers, and musicians (Mary and Carl)

- Advent Planning

-Still planning to have deacons assist; will need 1 less EM,

-Deacons will perform usual duties and will read the intersessions. Lector will do 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

-No pew cards; using a simple call and response; will not switch to the Nicene Creed this year because of lack of pew cards.

-No Gloria,

-Special blessings at the end of Masses.

- Christmas Services

-Form C Acclamations for Penitential Rite.

-Shall we sing the Gloria? Too soon given the resurgence? Just for Christmas Masses? Tentatively decided to sing it for Christmas Masses.

-No idea how many people will come to our Christmas Masses; suggested use of the Upper Room for overflow; on the same level, easier for sanitizers; better air flow than PC; has a separate exit that can be used. 40-50 additional people.

-Possibly set up 20 chairs in Narthex as well.

-Need to seek volunteers now for Christmas Masses.

-Create sign-ups for volunteers and post well ahead of Christmas; we can only have these Masses if we have volunteers; need extras because of the numbers.

-May have to conduct another training session if we get new volunteers.

-Christmas at Night readings for all Christmas Eve Masses; Christmas at Day for the rest.

-Communication is especially important through many different channels.

-Jill has created scaled-down plans for decorations; Art & Environment group, Men's Club, and Knights of Columbus will help with set up and take down.

-Christmas Eve 3pm and 10:30pm (music beforehand); 9am and 11am on Christmas Day.

-Egress after Masses with extra people may be challenging.

- New Year's Day Mass

-10 am; treat as a daily Mass; will Ziggy clean?

- Parish Mission, January 17.

- One night; want to allow 80 people to register.

-Need organizers of this type of event to recruit their own volunteers. Can't keep asking our Sunday volunteers.

- New Communion wafer vendor

-Our long-time supplier of Communion wafers will no longer be offering them after November. Because of lower Mass numbers, we have plenty to tide us over through the holidays.

-Sue is calling other local parishes to find out where they purchase their wafers; she will also check online resources.



- Ministry Reports
  - See written November reports.
  
- New Business
  - Condition of the pews
    - Varnish is being stripped because of the repeated disinfectant spraying.
    - Discussed various options at November PC meeting; Anne Lysaught from Admin. will identify someone with expertise in this area and have that person evaluate and make a recommendation.
    - Visioning for 1-3-5 years; will send out questions to CWC in January; meant to help in the transition to a new pastor and staff members; must present a report to PC in February.
  
- Closing Prayer
  - Bob Presnak closed the meeting at 8:30pm with a prayer.

## **Christian Service Commission 2020-2021**

Monthly Report to the Parish Council

December, 2020

**Bereavement:** no report

**BSA Scouts (Troop 507):** The Scout Troop has changed their meetings back to being virtual until, at earliest, end of January.

Both the Troop and Cub Scout Packs are in the process of re-chartering as required periodically. That is going well. Fr Paul has requested both Scout groups put together proposals (similar to RE) to be approved by the diocese and him in order to safely meet in small groups indoors. Timing of this request will depend on the pandemic.

Carrie Tilton

**Charitable Contributions:** The Charitable Contributions Committee has not met this fiscal year. The committee awaits word from the Parish Council that funds are available to distribute to worthy organizations.

Pam Cieslak

**Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral lunches and Emergency Meals):**

Nothing new to report - We are not providing funeral lunches or emergency meals at this time.

Kathy Kalina

**Cub Scouts (Pack 507):** For the time being, the Pack (family) meetings will take place during monthly outdoor hikes.

Carrie Tilton

**Daybreak Transitional Housing:** St Margaret Mary's Daybreak Transitional Housing ministry currently supports three homeless families. Our program is helping them by providing a safe place to live, grow, and attain financial stability and independence. Our ministry has not skipped a beat with the restrictions and risks of the Covid pandemic. We have been able to continue our work with video conference

technology. Daybreak placed a full page report in the weekly bulletin on Nov. 22 to share their progress with the parish. Please see the bulletin for the details.

**Knights of Columbus:** The SMMP Knights of Columbus were involved in the following activities in November and have the following activities planned in December:

1. Hosted the SMMP Fall Blood Drive with Versiti on November 14th in the Parish Center. We followed approved Diocesan COVID protocols. We had a strong turnout of 30 donors and collected 28 units of blood.
2. SMMP Knights assisted Mark Oliphant with the Drive-Thru SVdP clothing drive at SMMP on Nov 21/22.
3. SMMP Knights are hosting the last Sunday Rosary via Zoom on November 29th at 10:30am.
4. SMMP 40th Anniversary pint glasses are available for sale by the SMMP Knights of Columbus for a minimum donation of \$10. You may order online at [kofcsmmp.com](http://kofcsmmp.com) or contact Stewart Mattson at [stewartmattson@comcast.net](mailto:stewartmattson@comcast.net). Glasses will be available for delivery December 4th.
5. The Illinois Knights Vocation Raffle which benefits SMMP and Illinois Seminarians has been extended through December 2020. The drawing will be held January 15th, 2021. Total prize-pool is \$20,000. Contact Stewart Mattson at [stewartmattson@comcast.net](mailto:stewartmattson@comcast.net) if you would like to purchase a raffle book.

#### Upcoming Events

1. Dec 4-12th - Fr Eduardo at St Petronille will be hosting a Novena for Our Lady of Mercy. The Novena will end with a Mass on the 12th at 8am. All events can be viewed on St Petronille's YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvNo\\_3DRIBPSBkdhbEB3j7Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvNo_3DRIBPSBkdhbEB3j7Q)
2. Dec 12th - the SMMP Knights will celebrate an online Silver Rose Prayer Service in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 11am.
3. SMMP Knights are hosting our annual Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. This will be socially distant and there are gift cards for participants. Please contact Chuck Graber for details at [zebradaddy2@gmail.com](mailto:zebradaddy2@gmail.com).

**Legion of Mary:** no report

**Men's Club:** We hope that all readers here have had a great Thanksgiving! Our hope and prayer is that by this time next year, we won't need to be so very concerned about large family get-togethers during this special holiday season.

The Men's Club did welcome 46 member zoomys to the November 15th business meeting. At the meeting or during the month:

Members voted real-time during the meeting for potential days/times to help volunteer on the setup of Christmas decorations for inside the church and for the outside trees. Several dates were established. The Club will work with Arts and Environment on the scheduling.

Several MC members, along with Jill Mizen, took advantage of the unseasonable warm weather in mid-November to put up the new exterior tree lights donated by the MC at the October meeting. "...Rusty, we checked every bulb, didn't we?"

Unfortunately, the Men's Club wasn't able to host an after-event "Chili feed" this year for the Big Day of Service as it did last year (for obvious reasons). Several members did participate in the program and the Club made a financial donation to support supplies for the event.

The Club recognized, in its "Spotlight" program, a local restaurant - Jam and Jelly - as its business of the month. The program recognizes and discusses businesses that have supported SMMP and the Men's Club with donations for past events. They could use our patronage right now.

Volunteer opportunities at Loaves and Fishes were discussed in detail. Additionally, members received separate instructions on how to best enroll for individual volunteer efforts. Many members miss the quarterly Saturday group participation that the Club coordinated in the past - especially in the "grocery store" food distribution area. The covid restrictions have forced L&F to shut down the grocery store concept for the time being.

The Club's fiscal year has ended and a new 2020-2021 budget was presented and was approved by a vote of all present members. The new budget includes the expectation of multiple external and internal parish events as well as projecting funding donations for external local charities and the parish itself.

The November meeting agenda also reviewed the planned and upcoming parish activities, including details on Saturday Morning Live, Morning Enrichment, Sr. Madelyn's new book release, St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive and the Knights monthly Rosary program.

The next Men's Club meeting will be held on December 15th. After a short meeting, a program by Honor Flight Chicago will be presented.

Adrian Jaworski

**Military Ministry:** no report

**Sunday Nursery:** Nothing to report since we are not using the nursery during Mass.

**PADS:** The SMMP PADS meal delivery is now up and running. Tom Cordaro set up a web donation page, placed an appeal in the bulletin, and sent out a ConstantContact email to solicit for financial and volunteer support. The response has been wonderful. So far we have delivered 55 meals to the hotels where the homeless are staying. Our next deliveries are December 10 and 31.

Steve O'Brien

**Pastoral Care:** no report

**Peace and Justice Advisory Working Group:** Our next parish social mission weekend is the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Dec. 12/13) and the theme will be, "Relief for the Brokenhearted:

COVID-19 Stimulus for "the least among us." Our advocacy will focus on urging Congress to pass COVID-19 relief during this lame duck session that puts the most vulnerable and needy first. It is based on the letter sent to Congress by the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference.

Tom Cordaro

**Refugee Support Group:** Our mentors continue to work with our refugee family in West Chicago. Currently we are raising money to purchase Christmas gift cards for the family.

Tom Cordaro

**Earth Care Sub-Committee:** This year we will NOT be recycling Christmas lights. Instead we are asking people to save their old lights until next year when we will resume our recycling efforts.

Tom Cordaro

### **Outreach Projects:**

**Christmas Giving Tree:** Donations of gift cards and cash are going well. We also have a good number of hand-made Christmas cards thanks to all the volunteers of the Big Day of Service. The biggest challenge is finding a Target or Walmart store that will take a church check or credit card to purchase \$8,000 - \$10,000 worth of gift cards.

Tom Cordaro

**Pro-LIFE Committee:** no report

**St. Vincent dePaul:** A clothing drive was held Nov 21-22.

**September Club:** no report

**Sharing Parish:** We will send the next scholarship checks in January.

Virginia Cox

### **Incubator Ministries:**

**Holiday Food Basket Committee:** Our parish is once again collecting Christmas food baskets (for families of six) to be given to local social service agencies and distributed to low-income families in our area. Baskets will be delivered to church on Dec. 17.

**Sunshine Ministry:** nothing new to report

**Big Day of Service:** The Big Day of Service was held November 14. Because of the protocols surrounding the pandemic, volunteers either picked up projects at church and dropped them off later in the day or went out into the community to assist at food pantries or landscaping. Volunteers made fleece blankets for hospitalized kids and shelter animals and a variety of Christmas cards as well as placemats and ornaments

We collected baskets for 360 Youth Services, food for residents of PADS, and personal care items for Loaves and Fishes. The committee considered the day a success.  
Mary Kienstra