

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Immaculate Conception Church

Mattoon, IL – February 20, 2024

In attendance: Fr. John, Deacon Gene, Carla Will, Joann Curtis, Sheila Record, June Kriesel, John Watson, Kristen Watson, Megan Salmela, Garic Lawrence, Henry Unkraut

Absent: Rosa Olvera, David Skocy

November 2023 Minutes Approved.

Hospitality

Social Committee/June Kriesel

- January's Epiphany Brunch was a great success! Very well attended and with no food left over.
- February's Brunch had a good crowd, a larger variety of food was provided to ensure that there was enough for everyone.
- March's Brunch is scheduled for March 3rd, which will be the last one of the Winter Season. Summer Donuts will be offered in June, July and August.
- April 19th BUNCO NIGHT will be in the KC Clubhouse. No experience necessary, we will train you how to play. Bring a snack to share and drinks for yourself.

CCW (Council of Catholic Women)/Sheila Record

- The "Galentine's Social", on February 7th, was well attended with 35-40 ladies. A similar event will be offered every quarter. The next event will be a "Spring Fling" in May.
- CCW Provided lunch at the Anointing of the Sick Mass.
- The upcoming Holy Thursday Mass will include the "Funeral Ministry" envelope. The money is used to provide funeral lunches throughout the year. Sheila thanked the Knights for use of the KC building. Father John commented they are, "The Strong Right Arm of the Church."
- DCCW scholarship forms for high school senior ladies are available in the Parish Office.
- Winter Lenten Retreat at the Villa Maria in Springfield will begin at 9 AM, Tuesday, February 27th, and end at noon on Wednesday, February 28th.
- Julie Robinson will drive the parish van to the next Mattoon Deanery meeting at St. Anthony, Effingham, on Tuesday, March 5th. All ladies of the parish are invited.

Prayer

- Team Emmaus: Small Group study of the Sacred Scripture led by Katie Douglas. All young adults are invited to attend. Monday evenings, starting February 26th, at 5 PM, in the Family of Faith Center.

- Lenten Rosary & Stations:
 - February 23rd: Pastoral Council Members
 - March 1st: Group of Mothers
 - March 8th: Pastoral Council Members
 - March 15th: Group of Fathers
 - March 22nd: High School Youth Group
- Lenten Penance Service: Palm Sunday - March 24th
- Sacred Triduum:
 - Holy Thursday: 7:30 PM
 - Good Friday: 7:00 PM
 - Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM at St. Columcille
 - Easter Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Formation

Catechumens Report/Deacon Gene

- Our Catechumens and Deacon Gene attended the “Rite of Election” at the Cathedral in Springfield, on Sunday, February 18th. Deacon said 40 parishes were represented.
 - Jacob Hampton’s Sacrament Mass will be at the Easter Vigil at St. Columcille.
 - Blayz Gutierrez will be Baptized, Confirmed and receive First Holy Communion at the 10:30 AM, Easter Sunday Mass. His younger brother, Mathias, will also be Baptized.
 - Briggs Whitley’s Sacrament Mass will be Friday, April 5th.

Spanish Language/Father John

- Pentecost Retreat.
- First Saturday bi-lingual Mass continues.

PSR/Family of Faith/Carla Will

- Family of Faith is doing exceptionally well thanks to the faithfulness of families who participate. In addition to catechesis, families also have the opportunity to participate in Works of Mercy, recently including: Living Rosary, packed grocery bags for Catholic Charities, made Christmas Cards for home-bound and nursing home parishioners, baby bottles filled with coins and bills donated to the CHOICES: Pregnancy & Health Center, packed food sacks for Blessings in a Backpack, and prayed the Stations of the Cross, led by students.
- Eleven students are currently receiving Sacramental Prep from Mrs. Watson. Our next Confirmation and First Communion Mass at the Cathedral is 11 AM, Saturday, September 7, 2024. A Parish Celebration will occur the following day, Sunday, September 8th, at the 8 AM Mass at IC, Mattoon.

Lenten Huddle/Father John

- Saturday, March 9th: Begins with Holy Mass @ 8:30 AM, followed by three presentations and lunch.
 - Thomas Schniers: "How the Ten Plagues of Egypt Lead Us to Freedom from Sin"
 - Fr. Seth A. Brown: "The Way of the Cross as Told by the Shroud of Turin"
 - Dr. Patrick Coulton: "A 19th Century School Boy's Presentation of Genesis and Beyond"

Adult Education Offerings/Carla Will

- Winter/Spring 2024: "Pillar I: The Creed" – 6:30 PM, Thursday evenings.
- Lent 2024: "OREMUS: A Guide to Catholic Prayer" – 9:30 AM, Thursday mornings.
- Fall 2024: "Pillar II: The Sacraments" – 6:30 PM, Thursday evenings.

Service

St. Vincent DePaul/Joann Curtis

- Funds are back up to par thanks to the Thanksgiving envelope.
- Thank you to the St. Vincent members for providing desserts for the Fish Fries.
- The phone lines remain steady – receiving most requests via phone instead of in-person.
- Fundraiser conversations are taking place.
- Seven St. Vincent members.
- Recent zoom meeting with the district St. Vincent leader to receive guidance on rules and regulations.

Fourth Commandment Project/Father John

- Father John will touch base with Cheryl Smith for an update.

Knights of Columbus/Garic Lawrence

- The February 18th, Blood Drive was our most successful with 20 units of blood collected – enough to save 52 lives!
- Garic shared that the first Fish Fry was successful, especially considering the weather.
- Thank you to the Knights for their generous gift of \$2500 to support the good works of our parish.

St. Mary House /Father John

- The 3 mothers and 3 children continue to live in the house.
- The mothers are looking for housing but are met with a shortage of affordable housing.

- More volunteers are needed at the house.
- Two new members have joined the St. Mary Board: Terese Matthews and Dalena Hall.
- A review of the expectations of the guests is in the works with some revisions to be made. Revisions will be made by those who volunteer.
- A FIAT newsletter is currently being prepared by Carl Walworth.
- Soup Supper at St. Columcille was very successful. 2025 will be in Teutopolis. Father John noted the greatest part of the Soup Supper was witnessing so many people come together. Grateful to those who donated their time, raffle items, soups and desserts.

Other Business/Henry Unkraut

- Church "Re-Opening"
 - The back stair area is the last to be painted, besides some touch-up paint that will be needed.
 - Church volunteers are currently working on chair-arrangement in the nave.
 - When exactly will the church re-open? Depends on many factors: how quickly the painter finishes, how quickly the cleaning crew can complete a thorough cleaning, and a repair to the ceiling from a water leak on the west side of the gathering space.
 - The Chapel has been painted by church volunteers.
 - The Stations of the Cross have been updated.
 - Statues have been rearranged. Father Tolton will be moved to the vestibule.
 - Henry stated that a large number of volunteers have offered to help move chairs back into church – Garic offered the Knights assistance as well.

Diocesan Wide Centennial Campaign/Father John

- The purpose of this campaign is to eliminate any parish debt (we have none), work on deferred maintenance (ongoing), building demolition or construction (none anticipated), and endowing aspects of parish mission.

Next Meeting: May 21st, 2024, @ 6:30 PM in Parish Center.

Prayer Assignment: Megan Salmela