**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

**Immaculate Conception Church**

**Mattoon, IL – May 21, 2024**

**In attendance:** Fr. John, Deacon Gene, Carla Will, Joann Curtis, Henry Unkraut, Sheila Record, Rosa Olvera, Zoraida Irizarry, Marta Martin Sisco, Kristen Watson, Megan Salmela,

**Absent:** David Skocy, June Kriesel, Garic Lawrence, John Watson

February 2024 Minutes Approved.

**Hospitality**

Social Committee/Father John

* Summer Coffee & Donuts the first Sundays in June, July and August following the 8 AM & 10:30 AM Masses. No Coffee & Donuts following the 10:30 AM Mass on June 2nd due to the Corpus Christi Mass & Procession at Calvary Cemetery
* Sunday, August 11th, 6:30 PM, Ice Cream Social.

CCW (Council of Catholic Women)/Sheila Record

* The Wednesday, May 8th, CCW meeting was an open house for all ladies of the parish. A very successful gathering of 25 ladies. In place of traditional meetings, quarterly gatherings will be the new format. Next meeting will be in August, please see future bulletins for details.
* The Holy Thursday envelope collection for the Funeral Dinner Ministry was generously funded. Thank you to the parish for covering the cost of catered dinners. Desserts are donated by parish volunteers.
* DCCCW Convention will be held Wednesday, August 28th, at the Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville. Rides will be offered via the Parish Van.
* The next Mattoon Deanery meeting, November 6th, will most likely be hosted here at IC.

**Prayer**

* Father Alex McCollough
  + Priestly Ordination on May 25th, seats available on the bus, trip includes dinner. Please call Rectory to reserve your seat.
  + Father Alex’s “Mass of Thanksgiving” will be held at 2 PM, Sunday, May 26th, in church.
* Summer Seminarians:
  + Joseph Tuttle, arriving around June 1st, student at St. Meinrad.
  + Thomas Marten, arriving around July 1st, student at Kenrick-Glennon.
* Cemetery Masses:
  + Memorial Day, 8:00 AM, Monday, May 27th
  + Corpus Christi, 10:30 AM, Sunday, June 2nd – Mass & Procession at Cemetery
  + Independence Day, 8:00 AM, Thursday, July 4th. Parade to follow at 9 AM, line-up on Western Avenue.
  + Labor Day, 8:00 AM, Monday, September 2nd.
* Monday, June 17th, 6:30 PM, Pro-Life Mass here at IC.
* Wednesday, June 19th, Deanery Pro-Life Mass at St. Francis, Teutopolis, with Bishop Paprocki. Immaculate Conception Prayer Hour from 5-6 PM with Mass at 7:30 PM.
* National Eucharistic Procession, July 11-12th.
  + The National Eucharistic Procession is an unprecedented multi-route nationwide pilgrimage in which Catholics will pray and publicly follow Jesus in their cities through Eucharistic Processions. The Diocese of Springfield is excited to be included in one of the routes, the one coming from the West Coast, with all routes leading to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21, at the Lucas Oil Stadium. Please visit dio.org for route information and to register. Also, see future bulletins for changes to Mass Times at IC as parishioners are also encouraged to attend Eucharistic Procession Masses in Effingham and Teutopolis.
* Team Emmaus: Small Group study of the Sacred Scripture led by Katie Douglas. Meeting every other Monday. Geared toward young adults.
* Immaculate Conception Novena, December 1st – 9th.
  + Normally, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8th, however this year it falls on the Second Sunday of Advent, transferring the feast day to December 9th. Please see future bulletins for details.

**Formation**

Inquiry Class Report/Deacon Gene

* Three Candidates attending the ongoing Inquiry Class which meets at 6:30 PM, Tuesdays in the Family of Faith Center. Our Inquiry Class is for adults who have been baptized in other faiths.

Spanish Language/Rosa Olvera and Zoraida Irizarry

* Pentecost Retreat was a great evangelical success with more than 20 participants. Several speakers shared their spiritual experiences. Christian and Gospel music provided by Enrique. Many participants were greatly moved by the blessing from Father John. Delicious brunch provided by Rosa. Many thanks to Marta Martin Sisco, owner of Suite Dreams Hotel.
* First Saturday bi-lingual Mass continues.
* Father John thanked Rosa for the wonderful Cinco de Mayo event that was a great success. Always great to see the parish come together.
* Zoraida read an excerpt from an email from Jeanne Gross thanking Rosa for bringing our parish family together in Christian Fellowship.
* Requests from parishioners for Rosa to offer a cooking class. Rosa will offer a class before the next Cinco de Mayo.
* Sunday, July 21st, American breakfast with a Mexican touch. Opportunity to bring people together to discuss future projects.

Family of Faith/Carla Will

* Family of Faith completed a third-year successful year on Sunday, May 19th.
* The Sunday, May 19th, Skating Rink Party had more participate than any previous year.
* Eleven students will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion at the Cathedral at 11 AM, Saturday, September 7, 2024. A Parish Celebration will occur the following day, Sunday, September 8th, following the 8 AM Mass at IC, Mattoon. Many thanks to our Sacrament Catechist, Mrs. Kristen Watson.
* Family of Faith resumes on Sunday, September 15, 2024
* Summer Opportunities:

Thursday, May 30 & Friday, May 31– VBS from 6:00-7:30 PM

Sunday, June 2 - 10:30 AM Corpus Christi Mass & Procession at Calvary Cemetery

Thursday, July 4 – 8 AM Mass at Calvary Cemetery followed by 9 AM walking in the Independence Day Parade with the Parish Van.

Thursday, July 11 – Friday, July 12 – National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Sunday, July 14 – Wednesday, July 17 – “Called & Sent” Retreat at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield for anyone in High School in the Fall of 2024. Visit dio.org for additional information.

Saturday, July 20 – Walk with the Effingham Area Right-to-Life float in the Bagelfest Parade.

Friday, August 9 – Family Night at Lytle Pool from 8:00–10:00 PM.

Sunday, August 11 – 6:30 PM Ice Cream Social

“Hybrid School”/Father John

* Very preliminary, but certainly possible, that the Family of Faith Center will be used to host a two-day per week Hybrid (two days per-week in person learning and three days per-week at home learning) School following a Classical Catholic Education model.
* Catherine Porter, High School Catechist at IC, and Trish Metzger Gallagher will lead this grassroots endeavor.
* Upon Bishop’s approval, school would begin this August using three classrooms on the west side of the school. Immaculate Conception would host the Hybrid School.

Adult Education Offerings/Carla Will

**Thursday Mornings, 9:30 AM:**

Exodus: Called to Freedom - Fall 2024

Rejoice: Advent Meditations with Mary - Advent 2024 (1 episode)

Pillar II: The Sacraments - Winter 2025

True Reformers: Saints of the Catholic Reformation - Lent 2025

**Thursday Evenings, 6:30 PM:**

Epic: A Journey Through Church History - Fall 2024 & Winter 2025

**Service**

St. Vincent DePaul/Joann Curtis

* Four of seven St. Vincent members attended the meeting last Wednesday, May 15th.
* St. Vincent members meet with clients (now called friends or neighbors) from 9 AM – 11 AM, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.
* Very busy the month of April with food assistance, rent and utilities.
* An increase in the number of homeless people who cannot provide proof of residence.
* Probably have enough in funds until November.
* The district St. Vincent leaders invited Mattoon St. V members to attend a meeting in June near St. Louis.
* Some parishes have left the St. Vincent de Paul Society organization due to negativity.

Fourth Commandment Project/Father John

* Father John asked for suggestions for more parishioners to interview: Betty Brandvold. Sheila will look through the directory for suggestions.

Knights of Columbus/Father John

* Summer KC Blood Drives:
  + Sunday, June 16th
  + Sunday, August 18th

St. Mary House /Father John

* One family is currently living in the house. The house is ready for additional guests.
* St. Mary Board members Terry Coulton, Terese Matthews and Dalena Hall, have formed a committee to meet with potential guests.
* Possibly an Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, July 16th, Marian Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. An invitation to the St. Mary House families to attend and involve them with parish life.
* Bicycles have been donated for the kids at the St. Mary House.
* Joann suggested St. Mary Board Members contact the Counseling Staff at Lake Land College as a resource for guests of the St. Mary House who struggle with budgeting.
* ERBA offers budget counseling as well.
* Kristen Watson offered to teach Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace” course, open to all parishioners and St. Mary House guests.

Projects/Henry Unkraut

* Church painting is complete.
* Furnace leak has been resolved.
* A/C working properly in church with new thermostat.
* Sound system is working to allow better hearing.
* A new sign for the corner of 21st and Richmond has been designed.
* Window A/C unit in the school is scheduled to be installed this Friday, May 24th.

Diocesan Wide Centennial Campaign/Father John

* October kick-off.
* Cemetery Endowment. Looking ahead 25+ years at required maintenance expenses. Funds from a Trust Fund and Farm Income from land that adjoins the cemetery, as well as memorial gifts to the cemetery, are helpful but do not create enough income to cover expenses indefinitely. Endowment builds up the capital to produce income off of the interest. Different endowment choices available.
* Families do not care for their relatives’ graves like they did in the past, upkeep becomes the responsibility of the church.
* Only one cemetery board meeting in the last 9 years, a reorganization of the cemetery board is in the works.

Community Unit District #2/Father John

* Unit 2 has applied for a grant in hopes to open 4 all-day classrooms on the east side of the Family of Faith Center. Notification of grant approval expected in October, if approved, and upon Bishop’s approval, classes will begin in January 2025.

**Next Meeting***:*  August 20, 2024, @ 6:30 PM in Parish Center.

Prayer Assignment: Megan Salmela