

St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

June 15, 2021

Meeting – The Parish Pastoral Council meeting was conducted via Zoom in the face of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic which precludes face-to-face meetings. Bill Blough attended as a guest and prospective Council member.

Opening Prayer

Father John opened the meeting with prayer, giving thanks for the post-pandemic “new normal” which enables us to appreciate the simple things of life – and each other – more fully. We prayed for the ongoing recovery of our valued Chair, Cheryl Selak.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for May 18, 2021, were approved for posting to the St. Christopher website by Parish Office Manager Dawn Bloom.

Religious Education Office Updates

- PSR
 - On-line registration is scheduled to start the 1st of July. Google forms are being used for a more flawless database.
 - More PSR teachers are needed: 8 – 10 more are required – about half of the total teacher complement. There is a special need for 2nd grade teachers.
- First Communions – First Communions extended over eight weekends this year.
- Confirmations – Confirmations are complete.
- Vacation Bible School – Vacation Bible School is not yet full; 40 of 63 available slots are now taken.

St. Christopher School Updates

- Graduation was celebrated in the Church with the entire class together.
- 240 students are registered for Fall 2021. 240 is the number that is budgeted for the upcoming year.
- No faculty changes are slated for the upcoming 2021 – 2022 school year. One pre-school aid is departing – no teachers. All faculty were awarded pay raises for the coming school year.
- Parish Council members complimented Principal Scott Raiff for his recent ***Belltower Beacon*** article “The Benefits of the K-8 Model”. His reference to the “Angels” Program at St. Christopher School triggered

Mission Statement

We are the people of St. Christopher Catholic Church, a Eucharistic community of faith dedicated to. . .
Welcome, Celebrate, Care & Grow. . . in the image and likeness of Jesus.

enthusiastic reactions by Council members to the program now and over its many years. The suggestion was made that the “Angels” Program might be the subject of a future ***Belltower Beacon*** article.

Ministries and Events Updates

- Ladies Guild –
 - The Guild enthusiastically looks forward to hosting an outdoor sunset social in Centennial Park on Thursday, September 16th. The 1½ hour event will be a BYO refreshments social gathering.
 - The Little Flower program under the leadership of Jen Sheridan is launching this week. This program welcomes families of the newly baptized. Currently there are many Baptisms ongoing at St. Christopher.
 - Ladies Night Out planning for the 5th annual event will begin very soon under the leadership of Laura Hunter.
- Youth Group – Youth Group is getting back on track. A movie night is planned. 7th graders will be invited to join 8th and 9th graders in the Group.
- Young Adults – This Ministry hosted a Saturday cookout kick-off event at St. Christopher Centennial Park on Saturday, June 12th after the 5 PM Mass. Most of the estimated 35 in attendance attended 5 o'clock Mass which was celebrated by Father Anthony who made a point of welcoming the group. The group included attendees – even a few with children – from St. Christopher Parish, St. Luke Parish, St. Mark Parish, and St. Angela Merici Parish.
- Called For More –
 - The planning team of this Parish initiative is currently viewing Catholic Leadership Institute webinars in preparation to meet and assess how best to evaluate, present and follow up on the recent Disciple Maker Index Survey conducted at St. Christopher.
 - The goals of Called For More have a 24 to 36-month horizon and implementation may be deferred till after the Centennial celebration in 2022.
- Liturgical Ministers –
 - Scheduling of Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors for weekend liturgies will return to the Parish's computerized scheduling program after being done manually during the pandemic.
 - There will be 2 Lectors assigned at each Mass.
 - For now, there will be only 1 Eucharistic Minister plus the presider for distribution of Communion. 2 more will be added, if needed. Hosts only – not the cup – will be shared at Communion.

Formerly, 7 Eucharistic Ministers served at each Mass for distribution of hosts and cups.

- Hospitality Ministers at weekend liturgies will be added to the computerized scheduling program. A job description for the role of Hospitality Ministers (formerly ushers) is being developed. Those Hospitality Ministers welcoming parishioners to Mass will be incorporated into the Parish Hospitality Ministry.
 - Currently there are 13 Hospitality Ministers who served as ushers pre-pandemic. Additionally, of the 20 new Hospitality Ministers who volunteered during the pandemic, 13 will stay on. Of the 26 total Hospitality Ministers, 6 currently serve on Parish Pastoral Council. Prior to the pandemic, there were 50 ushers. Hospitality Ministers will be positioned at the 4 church entrances to welcome parishioners to Mass and to distribute bulletins to parishioners after Mass. In the past, all 4 ushers assigned to a liturgy welcomed only at the front entrance to the church on Detroit Road.
 - No servers will be used for now, at least till school resumes.
- Parish Pastoral Council Retreat
 - The prospects of a Council retreat require further definition. Additional input from the Council member who initially proposed a Council retreat and additional discernment by the Parish Council leadership team should be considered. An eye to complementing Centennial planning is a consideration.
 - The possibility of setting aside time for a Council dinner and a 2-hour evening of recollection in January was proposed as a “compromise” option.
 - The suggestion that the evening of recollection might pre-empt Council’s annual Christmas party was proposed. This suggestion met with some resistance by members who enjoy celebrating Christmas together and welcome the opportunity to engage spouses in an annual Council social gathering.

Block Party 2021

- The August 28th evening will begin with 5 o’clock Mass in Centennial Park
- The annual Parish raffle will culminate with a drawing of winners the evening of the Block Party, August 28th
- Food for the event is the BIG question that looms large due to pandemic considerations. The following ideas were put forth regarding the subject:
 - Food sharing is not a good idea. The traditional potluck buffet will not work.

- Food trucks offer an option for individual food service provided safely.
 - Food trucks may present access challenges for older parishioners or others with physical limitations. Perhaps young volunteers could serve as “angels” to assist those with access needs.
 - Food trucks can take a long time to cook individual meals and charge a high price.
 - Food truck tickets might be offered to cover the price of a food truck entrée.
 - Food trucks can deliver food into the Parish Center.
 - A caterer might provide a “boxed lunch” option. The boxed lunch might be prepared in advance to be readily available for pick-up.
 - A hybrid solution of a food truck + a catered box lunch (e.g., Panera) might work
 - A hybrid solution of a food truck + burgers and hot dogs prepared on-site might work
- Father John will reach out to Michelle Romary who has offered to help select food trucks to get her advice
 - A DJ will again provide musical entertainment
 - The traditional beer tent will offer beer for sale to adults
 - Parish Pastoral Council members will be enlisted to recruit Parish volunteers to assist with the evening’s activities as needed

Centennial Planning

- Bishop Malesic is scheduled to celebrate 5 PM Mass on Saturday, May 14, 2022 – the actual 100th anniversary date of St. Christopher Church.
- Some 15 or so volunteers will meet Monday, June 28th in the Atrium for a Centennial brainstorming session. One of the volunteers who might prospectively head up the celebration planning initiative has event planning expertise. Events and activities before and after May 14th will also be considered.

Father John Updates

- Property Improvements
 - New efficient LED lighting will be installed in St. Christopher School this summer. The lighting will pay for itself in 3 years in energy savings.
 - Parking lot restoration is scheduled to begin Monday, June 21st and require 2 – 3 weeks to complete. This was last done 20 years ago.

The cost is \$750,000 – money raised in the ongoing capital campaign.

- Centennial Park has far exceeded expectations as a jump start to the St. Christopher “New Century of Service”. The Park’s use during the pandemic has proven to be of unexpected benefit to ongoing Parish life.
- Seminary Renovation
 - A \$30 million Seminary renovation cost is being assessed to Diocesan parishes. St. Christopher’s contribution based on 12-15% share of 2019 collections is calculated to be \$140,000 to \$160,000 over 2 to 3 years. The required outlay will be offset significantly by estate money left by a recently deceased parishioner who gifted St. Christopher Parish. Father John noted that St. Christopher’s endowment now exceeds \$3 million and the projected 4% annual payout helps cover Parish operating expenses.
- Personnel
 - Father Anthony is engaged now in the job of learning to be a Parish priest
 - Father John’s Diocesan assignment as Delegate for Senior Priests begins July 1st.
 - Maria Morariu who retired after 12 years of St. Christopher service has been replaced.
- Centennial Park Events
 - Outdoor Masses will be celebrated this summer in Centennial Park on Saturday, June 19th at 5; Sunday, July 25th at 11:30; and Saturday, August 28th. The Feast of St. Christopher will be celebrated with Father Anthony presiding on July 25th. The August 28th Mass will be celebrated in conjunction with the Parish Block Party.
 - Outdoor concerts will be presented this summer in Centennial Park. The Michelle Romary Trio will perform Thursday, July 15th at 7 PM. Bob McMurray, Music Ministry Director, is planning to engage an Irish musical group later this summer. Concerts will be promoted through social media.
- **Closing Prayer** – The meeting closed with a reading of the St. Christopher Parish Mission Statement – amended to substitute Eucharistic in place of spirited.
- **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – the third Tuesday in July
7 – 8 PM
Via Zoom – with access details to be provided in advance