**St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**

January 17, 2023

# Opening Prayers

The Parish Council meeting opened with our traditional faith sharing and prayers. The Gospel for the upcoming weekend liturgies was read aloud and reflected on by each individual Council member and our guest presenter. Personal intercessions were prayed. We concluded Opening Prayer with collective participation in the Responsorial Psalm for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

# Approval of Minutes

The minutes for November 15, 2022, were approved for posting to the St. Christopher website by Parish Office Manager Dawn Bloom.

**St. Christopher Pastoral Minister: Logan Feldkamp**

Logan Feldkamp overviewed his primary areas of Parish staff responsibility:

1. Digital ministry
2. Young Adult ministry
3. Youth Ministry – St. Christopher Parish J+Walkers

The St. Christopher website ranks among the best in the Diocese. Logan Feldkamp detailed the statistics of how many quarterly hits the website experiences and the numbers of quarterly visits to the website. He noted the importance of analytics in this aspect of his work.

The Young Adult Ministry challenge is to address the demographics of the St. Christopher Parish young adult population, typically young families with young children. The Diocesan model is targeted more to young single adults. Consequently, a Young Families Ministry for families with pre-school families is emerging as the area of concentration at St. Christopher.

St. Christopher Parish J+Walkers – the Youth Ministry – is drawing increasing attention and numbers of student participants, including St. Christopher students, PSR students, and high school students. 25 to 30 students regularly attend meetings and activities. The students have become personally invested in planning the Ministry’s direction and activities. They have shown interest as Eucharistic ministers and lectors. The Ministry addresses the personal growth of the students spiritually and as people, with four focus areas:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Playing | * Praying | * Learning | * Growing |

The J+Walkers are comprised now of about 15% high school students and 85% junior high, with about 60% in 7th grade.

Discussion among Council members with Logan Feldkamp ensued. Many Council members have worked with Logan on various Parish projects, particularly in the realm of promoting Parish activities through social media and the Parish website. Council members collectively concluded that we should be instrumental in furthering the digital outreach of St. Christopher Parish by collaborating with the Parish ministries we serve to avail themselves of the digital channels open to them. We agreed to encourage ministries to digitally post notices of upcoming activities. Logan Feldkamp and Office Manager Dawn Bloom can both help facilitate.

**Ministries Issues and Concerns**

* **Religious Education Updates from St. Christopher School and PSR**
* The sacrament of Reconciliation is now underway for all prospective First Communion students.
* **Ladies Guild**
  + The Ladies Guild will be hosting a wellness meeting focused on mindfulness through meditation. Cindy McDonough will facilitate on Thursday, January 26th.
* **Social Concerns**
  + The traditional soup supper has been tabled due to the lack of a chef for soup preparation. The past chef cannot do it any longer.
  + This group is interested in getting involved in the Ukrainian Refugee Welcome Circle project now underway.
* **Melissa DiFini – new Pastoral Minister activities**

Melissa DiFini in her interim part-time status has embarked on several avenues of ministry to date:

* Bereavement ministry – A second support group “winter grief” will meet weekly for 7 weeks beginning January 9th at 2 PM in the Prayer Room. The ministry will support up to 12 people with understanding, empathy and help on what to expect (and not) while grieving the death of a loved one. The first support group met in the fall with Melissa DiFini’s facilitation and was well attended.
* Ministers of Praise – This Ministry newsletter has transitioned from Gayle Cilimburg to Melissa DiFini.
* Walking With Moms in Need – This Church-wide program will be supported at the Parish level to increase outreach and support to pregnant and parenting mothers in need. A core team is being formed; six potential members willing to serve have been identified. Parishioners Amy McMaken and Julie Mallett who work with Sisters Haven, a local faith-based charity, currently establishing a home on the west side of Cleveland for pregnant women and mothers with children, are collaborating with Melissa DiFini and St. Christopher’s Walking With Moms in Need (WWMIN) Ministry.
* Communion to the sick and homebound
* Funeral Ministry

**Father John Update**

* Ukrainian Refugee Welcome Circle
  + This initiative to fully embrace and support a displaced Ukrainian family immigrating to the U.S. has been very well received in the Parish. Funds are being raised and materials distributed.
  + Mary Joan Papajcik and Dan Gaunter are chairing the project in cooperation with Father Tim Daw.
  + The family St. Christopher Parish will support has yet to be identified. Housing options, especially in the Parma area, are being considered. Parma has an established Ukrainian community, making it attractive as a new home for a new Ukrainian immigrant family.
* Lenten events
  + Eucharistic adoration will be offered after Friday 11 AM Mass.
  + Stations of the Cross will be offered on Friday evenings.
  + The Ladies Guild will offer a Lenten Stations of the Cross “Through Mary’s Eyes” in March.
  + Live Stations of the Cross will be offered Palm Sunday, April 2nd at 7 PM. This is a collaborative program between St. Mark and St. Christopher Parishes.
  + Bishop Michael Woost will be featured at the Parish Mission March 26 – 28th. The upcoming ***Belltower Beacon*** will provide parishioners with more information about this significant Lenten opportunity.
* IT update
  + The process is underway to hire a part-time person to help manage St. Christopher’s website and social media presence.
  + Plans are in the works to install monitors in the Gathering Area, the Parish Center and at the School entrance to communicate Parish news updates.
* Wine and the Word with Father Anthony
  + Father Anthony meets weekly with parishioners with his Wine and the Word message. Angela Rosati is using Sign-up Genius for scheduling.

**Parish Pastoral Council**

* Family Movie Night   
  This event is scheduled for this Friday, January 20th.
* St. Colman
  + A Night at the Races at St. Colman

This event planned for Saturday, January 21st is a major fund-raising event for our Church in the City partner parish. In support of our sister Parish and at the request of Rita Gaertner, St. Colman Parish Pastoral Council President, promotional information about the event has been included in the St. Christopher weekly bulletin.

* + More collaboration

St. Colman Council President, Rita Gaertner, and our own, Laura Hunter, have discussed the needs of St. Colman Parish and ways St. Christopher might be supportive. St. Colman needs include:

* + - Financial help
    - Outreach help – an array of services needs volunteers.
    - Help in getting people back to church – only some 50 people attend weekly Mass.
  + Council discussed options for how we might most effectively help.
    - While the weekly Bulletin and ambo appeals have limited reach, a ***Belltower Beacon*** article reaches all St. Christopher parishioners. St. Colman will be offered space in the upcoming issue to highlight Parish life and the needs of St. Colman parishioners and the neighborhood community.
    - St. Colman social media can be linked to St. Christopher website.
    - Succinct Bulletin announcements can be incorporated in the St. Christopher weekly Bulletin.
    - St. Christopher facilities can be made available to St. Colman for events; this was done in the past.
    - A shared Parish Council session between the two Parish Pastoral Councils might be a consideration.
* PATHS “Back to the 80s” benefit

This event is scheduled for Saturday, February 11th. Parishioners can participate remotely in the benefit auction.

* Guest Speaker – February 2023

PATHS President Sarah Pap will be featured at the beginning of Council’s February 17th meeting. [PATHS: Parents and Teachers Helping Students]

* Parish Pastoral Council Retreat
* This shared experience will be on Saturday, February 25th beginning with 9 AM Mass in the Church.
* Sister Margaret Mach will facilitate our retreat.
* Marilu Norena will coordinate lunch.
* University of Indiana Hoosiers music event

This event is scheduled for Sunday, February 26th, at a time yet to be finalized.

* Parish Council Recruitment and Donut Sunday in March
  + Council members whose terms expire in 2023 are asked to consider their interest in continuing their commitment for another Council term.
  + Council discussed alternate dates and settled on the weekend of March 19th. Other considerations include the logistics for the recruitment, including recruiting Saturday evening Mass participants.
  + An article about Parish Pastoral Council will be included in the upcoming ***Belltower Beacon***.

**Concluding Comments**

* Additional agenda suggestions are welcome.
* Jim Garrison volunteered to lead our Closing Prayer in February.

**Closing Prayer and Mission Statement**

Bonnie Twitchell led the group in closing with a prayer. Reading and reflection of the Parish Mission Statement concluded the meeting.

**Next Business Meeting**Tuesday, February 21, 2023   
7– 8:30 PM   
Parish Center   
Parishioners are welcome to attend.