

Sacred Worship Committee Minutes

December 3, 2020

Present: Fr. Jeffrey Hennes, Diane Dietsche, Deb Frisch, Kris Hansen, Ellen Miskowski, Kathy Tetzloff, Tari Wallner and Jean Bablitch

Opening Prayer: Deb Frisch

Featured Discussion:

1. **Communal Reconciliation** - Due to Covid-19 there will be no Communal Reconciliations this Advent. Private confessions will be held on Fridays during Advent from 3:00 - 6:00 at St. Stephen. 1st Penance will be held on December 12.
2. **Memorial Mass/Service** - How did it go? Did not feel right this year. It was not as personal. About 6 out of 18 families were represented. The names of the deceased were listed in the Worship Aid. The names were read and candles were lit at the 4:00 Mass on Saturday. There was no social.
3. **Thanksgiving** - How did it go? About 45 people attended the 9:00 Mass on Thanksgiving Day. There was a fair representation from both parishes. Food was not put on the altar. Food donations were collected in the grocery carts in the Gathering Space.
4. **Advent - Wreath Lighting** - The Advent Wreath will be lit by volunteers during the opening song. The Advent decorations are beautiful. Outside wreaths will get new ribbons this year.
5. **Christmas - Kid's Noel and Christmas Day - music, decorations, reservations, etc.** - Decorating for Christmas at St. Joseph will take place inside the church on the 4th Sunday of Advent after the 10:30 AM Mass. The Creche will be placed directly in front of the altar. Buildings and Grounds Committee will handle the outside decorations.

There will be two Christmas Masses at St. Joseph this year. 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve. 10:30 AM on Christmas Day. There will be music for 15 minutes prior to both Masses. The 4:00 Mass will be geared toward children. Bells will be given to the children as they enter. Silent Night will be played with the lights off during the meditation after Communion at this Mass.

Reservations are required for all services. At this time 125 reservations have been made for the 4:00 service. There is space for the overflow in the Gathering Space. Tables will be cleared out and chairs will be set up. Mass can be viewed on the television. Deacon Mike will come to the Gathering Space to distribute Communion.

St. Stephen will have Mass at 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve and 8:30 AM on Christmas Day. Reservations are required there also. There will be overflow space in the lower level. St. Stephen will also be celebrating their 100 year anniversary.

Both the 4:00 and 6:00 Masses will be livestreamed.

6. **Mass Counts** - Mask mandates are in place. Counts are much lower this year. A copy of the Mass counts is attached.
7. **Lent - Initial thoughts.** There is concern over the Triduum. Father Todd may be needed elsewhere. Amherst is in need of priests. Some priests have stepped away due to Covid-19 concerns. We should know more about this by our February meeting.

The Little Black Books will be available for Lent. These are similar to the Little Blue Books we had for Advent.

Individual confessions will be available again during Lent on Fridays from 3:00 - 6:00.

There will be no joint mission during Lent this year. This will be pushed ahead to next year. Zoom meetings are just not as effective as in person.

Ash Wednesday - February 17 services will be at 6:30 AM, noon and 6:30 PM. Will ashes be given? That would involve touch.
8. **Monday Mass starts at St. Joe's in January - server?** Dale Tetzloff has volunteered to do this or find someone when he cannot.
9. **Ushers/Daily Mass Servers** - 2 ushers are needed for each week end Mass. An usher schedule is being worked on. Daily Mass Servers - Gail is now available to serve. Deacon Mike is usually available for Wednesdays and Fridays. Jim Krueger and Cindy McCabe have been serving/reading on the week ends.
10. **Parish Mission Statement** - Work is being done on creating a new parish mission statement. Lynn Meyer and the Parish Council are working together to craft a new statement.
11. **What are we hearing?**

December 26 - St. Stephen will have a Holy Hour beginning at 7:30 AM with Mass to follow at 8:30 in honor of their patron saint.

Mass schedule for January 1 Mary, Mother of God will be 8:30 AM at St. Stephen and 10:30 AM at St. Joseph.

There will be a First Communion Retreat on January 31 at 6:00 PM at St. Stephen.

Two new statues will be added to the altar These will be people from our area - Brother James Miller and another.
12. **Prayer Leader for next meeting:** Kris Hansen

Closing Prayer: Fr. Hennes

Respectfully submitted by: Jean Bablitch

Next meeting: February 4