



**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

Members Present:

Rev. Gabriel Baltus, OSB
Mike Budd
Maureen Cunningham
Andrew Hackley
Mary Beth Kerner
Mathew Klody
Tom Kmiecik

Bob Miller
Tracy Szalek
Andrea Uribe
Bradley Vaupel
Leanne Van Gronigen
Matt Zurek

Absent:

Mary Agnes Laguatan
Dave Mankowski
Dan O'Connor
Rev. James Radek
Jaqueline Skelly
Dick Webb

Guests:

Michelle Picchione

I. OPENING

Evening Prayer was held in Room 22 of the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m.

The Meeting began at 7:18 p.m.

II. OLD BUSINESS

October minutes were approved by Bob Miller and seconded by Maureen Cunningham.

III. PASTOR'S ADDRESS

Parish Staff Changes

Diane Kowalczyk has been hired as the as the Director of Marketing and Development.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Advent Lessons and Carols, with guest musician Gavin Coyle, will take place on Sunday, December 12th at 4:00 pm in the church, followed by a wine and cheese reception.

Reunite & Reignite Gathering

A spaghetti dinner will take place on Saturday, January 8th following the 4:00 pm Mass. Attendees will receive a blessed candle.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Active Parishioners/Catholic Identity

The Council Members were asked they how they define the Catholic Identity of St. Joan of Arc Parish and how well they think we are doing as a parish community in that goal, based on the parish and school mission statements. Principal Michelle Picchione also noted that their thoughts regarding Catholic identity will be discussed at the next School Board meeting.

The Council Members shared the following:

- It is important to be explicit in our expectations of parishioners, particularly those with children attending our school.
- As an example, the Archdiocese of Atlanta requires of school families: regular Mass attendance, financial support, and volunteer involvement in at least one *parish* ministry.
- There should be a link between parish ministries and school families, a two-way relationship between parish and school, and not just participation in only school activities.
- We need to outline the criteria for active parish membership, then determine how to measure/enforce it.
- School families should be encouraged to participate in and be informed of our liturgical ministries, since they should be attending Mass anyway. Perhaps there can be better/new ways to advertise said ministries.
- The requirements of school families' parish ministry involvement should be manageable, and it is a way to give back to the parish, as the parish supports the school.
- Certain online applications, such as "Flocknote", could assist in catechizing parents and building an "online community." Other opportunities for catechesis could include re-starting the "Cloud of Witnesses" saints presentations and recording the school Masses and homilies.
- It was suggested that school families sign a commitment letter in order to be eligible for the parishioner tuition discount.
- Personal invitations to "non-Mass-going" families to come back to the Sunday Eucharist are valuable.
- Spiritual development has to be one's choice- it cannot be forced.

Michelle Picchione thanked the Council members for their input. She agreed that the if parish is a family, then all need to participate in it, and this keeps the parish and school healthy.

When the Sunday obligation is restored, it would be a favorable time to address these issues.

Next steps include determining how to verify families' participation in the parish, and drafting requirements for active parish membership. Father Gabriel asked Brad Vaupel, Andrew Hackley, and Maureen Cunningham to serve on an ad-hoc committee to draft said requirements.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be a Christmas party.

VI. CLOSING

The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m. Closing prayer was the Salve Regina.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Kerner
Recording Secretary