

SEVEN DOLORS PASTORAL COUNCIL

~ For the greater glory of God, we will do as Christ tells us. ~

PASTORAL COUNCIL

In Attendance: Tamra Storms (S), Mo Glende, Joe Wolf, Hanna Coffman

Ex Officio: Fr. Leo Blasi, Gloria Green

Opening Prayer - Fr. Leo Blasi

Approval of Minutes from Monday, October 21st, 2024

REPORTS

Finance Report — Mo Glende; a meeting was not held in October, meeting will be held 11/21/24

- Stacie Levendofsky will review overall budget, profit and loss.
- Finance Council guidelines are being updated for review at the next meeting.
- One additional member is still needed.

Latino Liaison — Gloria Green

- Father Rafael continues to be the Presider for Spanish Masses every month, except the last Sunday. For December, he will assist with every Mass, except the 8th of December. He will also be at the Spanish Mass at 11p on December 11th prior to the celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe. *Mananitas* will be at midnight with hot chocolate and Pan Dulce served afterward in the church basement.
 - To prepare for the activities, Fr. Raphael will bless the crowns during Mass on December 1st. These crowns are hand made and worn by the *Matachines* dancers. The *Traditional Matachine Danza* Community Banquet will be held in the church basement following Mass. There will be information about the origins of this *Danza*, which has been around for centuries.
- KSU students, as a part of a Service-Learning Project, visited our Food Pantry on the 29th of October. Their goal is to make healthy recipes from the items available.
- Graciela Berumen and other career counselors will be available after Mass on November 24th to help students who would like to learn how to apply for scholarships. This resource is available for everyone 11th grade and up.
- A Hispanic Advent retreat will take place December 14th from 9a-4:30p.
- *Posadas* will start 9 days before Christmas from December 16th — 24th. *Posadas* includes a rosary followed by a song about Mary and Joseph traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. During the song two groups are made, one group inside the church and another group outside of the church. The groups sing to each other depicting Mary and Joseph asking for a place to stay and being turned away.

(The complete report is attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.)

Commission Reports

Liturgy — Joe Wolf; meeting held 11/2/24

- ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT
 - Need space to store decor used for decorating the church as the closet in the church basement might be removed during the remodel. Garage storage space is limited.
 - Gearing up for Advent and Christmas
 - Evaluate budget going forward.
- EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
 - Need to standardize locations for receiving Communion prior to distributing.
 - Need to standardize taking Communion to the choir loft.
 - Placement of the Pyx for choir loft and home-bound communion
- HOSPITALITY
 - No longer locking side doors during Mass
 - Retraining is needed to familiarize everyone with duties
 - Always looking for more volunteers
- LECTORS
 - Always in need of more volunteers
- MUSICIANS
 - Summer Mass setting would be revised if used again. 'Gloria' would be sung through rather than the repeating chorus/verse structure.
 - Trying a couple new things with musicians, including two cantors
 - Advent we will use the traditional Chant Mass
 - Sound System Updates
 - Met with Ron Johnson for evaluation of the speakers system. Our current speakers are too big. They can replace components and reprogram to make sound carry clearer.
 - Also installing another over the ear mic station
 - Open to new hymnal/missalette options for the pews

(The complete report is attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.)

- LIVING NATIVITY
 - The early Mass on Christmas Eve will have a living nativity and youth choir performance prior to Mass. Children aged 3+ are welcome to participate as an actor or singer. Rehearsals will be at church @ 9-10a on the following Saturdays: 11/23, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21. Please use the QR Code found in the bulletin.

MCS/Council of Education

- The master schedule for all sports and results can be found at: <https://www.manhattancatholicschools.org/athletics>
- Thanksgiving break is November 25th-29th.
- K-4 Music Concert is December 10th at 6:30p. 5-8 Music Concert is December 17th at 6:30p.
- The end of the Second Quarter is December 20th.
- Christmas Break is December 23rd — January 3rd, classes resume Monday, January 6th, 2025.
- Catholic Schools Week is January 20th — January 31st, 2025.
- A school Nutrition Cook and Girl's Head and Assistant Basketball coaches are still needed.
- Applications for substitute teachers are being accepted. Please contact the administrative office for details at 785-565-5050.

Catholic Formation — Gloria Green (interim)

- Religious Ed is going very well. Parents of students receiving Reconciliation and Holy Communion are joining classes monthly.
- Carlos Palacios met with students who will be receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.
- Interviews will be held for the new Formation Director. The new director will likely start after the first of the year.

Parish Life — no meeting until after January 2025

- The church Birthday Dinner will be March 2nd, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, with a Mardi Gras theme.

Building and Grounds — Fr. Leo

- A full remodel of the church kitchen, with an extension, is approved and planned to begin Spring 2025, with hopes to be complete by the time school starts in late Summer. Subcontractors have been measuring and assessing the site for plans.
- The Building Committee met last week regarding plans for the new Parish Center and new Pre-School. There will likely be one director overseeing the two buildings as one project. Renderings and bids will be accepted from multiple companies.

Evangelization — Fr. Leo (interim)

- A couple has been appointed by Bishop Vicki to lead the *Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)*. They will visit sometime after Easter to explain the *Way* and how it is lived. NCW places a strong emphasis on 'New Evangelization' outlined by Pope Francis.
- The Parish Mission will take place December 1st — December 4th at the start of Advent with a focus on Reconciliation. It will be hosted by Fr. John Broussard, from Fathers of Mercy. One hour of Reconciliation will be available each night prior to the presentation.

Social Action — Tamra Storms

- Pilgrim Bread sales were held after Masses on Nov 16th and 17th. \$1672 was raised for MESI, Ogden House of Hope, and beneficiaries of Spanish Ministry.
- The annual Advent Giving Tree will be placed in the vestibule starting the weekend before Advent. Items collected will be gifted to local families in need. 17 families will be sponsored. The tags are color-coded and each family shares one color. Adults are asking for two 'needs' and one wanted item. Children are asking for three needs and two wanted items. Most of the 'needed' items are clothing and many of the 'wanted' items are baby blankets, cold weather items, and gift cards toward groceries, living expenses, and beds/bedding. Please consider donating.

Seven Dolors Catholic Women — Hannah Coffman

- A board meeting was held in early November with very good turnout and feedback. Many members are excited about the transition into the new model. This model will continue to be guided and refined during the transition.
- *Advent by Candlelight* will be held December 6th from 5:30p - 7:30p. This is a special evening for prayer, reflection, music, fellowship, and food. RSVPs are being accepted @ sevendolorscatholicwomen@gmail.com or 720-232-8909, until November 24th.
- The Saint Martha group/Circle 6 will host additional Christmas craft sales in the church basement after Masses.

Old Business

- Nominations have been submitted for Pastoral Council members. The nominees are being contacted and will be appointed by Fr. Leo.
- Staff positions in need: an assistant to the church Secretary, Formation Director, and Project Director for the building project.

New Business

- A traveling image of *Christ the King of Nations* will be present on December 6th, 5p to midnight in the church, and on the 7th, midnight to 6am in the adoration chapel. The image has been traveling around the country and significant events have occurred while having the image displayed in the churches.

Pastor's Comments

Announcements

Next Meeting: Monday, January 20th, 2024 @ 7p in the church basement

Closing Prayer - Fr. Leo