

HOLY CROSS PARISH

A welcoming, vibrant community committed to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: February 23, 2025

Present: Rich Meyers, Andrew Turner, Marguerite Webster, Kerry Mess

Open with Jubilee prayer:

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever, Amen.

I. Council Minutes

- A. Last meeting: Approval of minutes (Jan 12) [approved](#)
- B. October and November still not up; will send again with January approved minutes

II. Meeting Items

A. Parish Project Plan – **We’ve done some great work!**

- 1. Milestone #2 (welcoming campaign) – check in [Goal: 70 people at mass ea. wk.]
 - a. Facebook page – any luck contacting Facebook?
[Tabled until Matthew is present](#)
- 2. Milestone #3 (greeting campaign) – check in
 - a. Marguerite: Greeters – how many? [1-2 more would help](#)
 - b. [Eucharistic ministers: Carol B wants to retire; Annette H won’t be attending anymore; Marguerite working on another – need to widen the circle, recruit more](#)
 - c. Kerry: Counters – One more would be ideal (Pat K, Andrew T, Berry S)
[Kerry asking Matthew T for one week.](#)
- 3. Milestone #4 (fixing pews) – Revisit: disconnect one, put felt underneath – trial?
[Rich has purchased different hardware and wants to try them for what works best when he gets a chance. Kerry willing to be an extra hand if needed.](#)

B. Events

- 1. Lenten meal – planning meeting Tuesday (2/25, 6:30 p.m.)
Target audience? [Whole community \(32 on sign in sheet last year; at least 10 takeouts\)](#)
[Need to be more efficient and catch everyone this time round. \(for planning meeting\)](#)
[*Ad in Pennysaver? (due Feb. 26)] [In Pennysaver, on Firehouse](#)
- 2. Vacation Bible School
 - a. First Baptist has a team coming in first week in August (4-8)

- b. meeting with Penny Harrington United Methodist about companion VBS Wednesday (2/26, 5:30 at UMC) – all welcome (in bulletin events)
- C. Follow up from New Business
 - 1. Food Pantry month – not one; we can choose **May – will put in bulletin; have box in back (Marguerite will bring the box)**
 - a. very specific on what pantry can accept (state funded)
 - b. list on the back bulletin of needed items.
 - c. expiration dates are the most important: Nothing can be put on the shelf for clients that is expired.
 - d. Pet pantry is also in need of items; Elizabeth is privately funded and not as strict on what she can accept.
 - 2. Candle cards – see mock up
Put a candle and praying hands on front side. Color for these.
 - 3. Pope Francis's suggestions for the Jubilee Year: **Bring up at next meeting again.**
 - a. Make a pilgrimage to the Albany Cathedral and have a meal with the bishop
 - b. Forgive: Sacrament of reconciliation each month
Can we do penance here at least once during Lent Friday evening: 4:45? (Kerry will ask Fr. Chris)
Highlight Reconciliation note in bulletin during Lent (blue/bold)
 - c. Do penance: On Fridays, abstain from meat – fast from futile distractions – social media, TV, etc.
 - d. Perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy
Bulletin: Educate on spiritual and corporal works of mercy (1st Sunday Lent); run every other week? (ask Matthew)
 - e. Say the Jubilee Prayer daily
 - f. Have a Jubilee Drive to help the needy
 - g. Anchor of Hope: Make a poster of an anchor to remind us of how an anchor keeps us steady and secure in troubled waters.

III. New Business

Marguerite out 9/16 (cruise)

IV. Upcoming

- A. Lenten Fish Dinner planning meeting: Tuesday, 2/25, 6:30 p.m.
- B. VBS planning meeting: Wednesday, 2/26, 5:30 p.m.
- C. **Next meeting: Sunday, April 6, after mass**