

**Present:** Msgr. Thomas Cook, Sandy Strand, Cheryl Meger, Jackie Evans, Shirley Schultz, Ev Stransky, Ray Bissen, and Bill Lawrence.

**Call to Order & Prayer:** Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Jackie Evans, Council Chair. Msgr. Cook led the group in a Prayer for Peace.

**Agenda Approval:** Agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Review and approve minutes from September 19, 2023, meeting:** Motion was made by Ray Bissen to approve the minutes as written. Bill Lawrence seconded the motion and all approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Msgr. Cook informed the council of initial plans for the permanent closure of Marian Drive. Repairs are needed to the retaining wall and a drainage system is needed. It continues to be a safety issue, even when not in use for vehicles. The church owns the parking lot and part of Marian Drive. St. Mary's School owns the rest of the Marian Drive property. There is consideration for having the "Big Ask" at the Night of Knights Auction utilized to help fund the closure. Building and grounds and finance councils are aware of the upcoming project.
- On February 1, 2024, Msgr. Cook assumed additional duties as Administrator of St. Joseph and Christ the King parishes with the departure of Fr. Starasinich. At present, this assignment is anticipated to last until a permanent pastor is placed at St. Joseph and Christ the King (July 1, 2024). Msgr. Cook and Fr. Gregory Parrott, Parochial Vicar, are sharing duties and will alternate serving parishes throughout the assignment. Msgr. Cook will be present at Sacred Heart for the Easter Triduum.

**Old Business:**

- Stove in Parish Center – installed and ready for use.
- Mass song announcement – some musicians announce, and others do not.
- Parish Events – brainstorming and discussion about adding events in addition to the parish picnic (which is tentatively scheduled for September 29, TBD), perhaps quarterly, but that may be a bit ambitious. Ideas discussed include:
  - ⇒ Offer a KC Parish Breakfast
  - ⇒ Offer a free meal to REP students (numbering 160 this year from both parishes) and their families on Wednesday evening before REP class (class times are 6:30-7:45); due to potential size, might need to hold at St. Mary's cafeteria; classes start September 18, 2024; good way to connect adults in the parish with youth; organizers and volunteers would be needed; frequency TBD.
  - ⇒ Offer fellowship after the Saturday evening mass; a 'wine and cheese' event or some other type of offering like a soup supper.

- Sunday morning fellowship - continue to have Sunday morning fellowship the same week as the Children's Choir sings after 10 am Mass to promote attendance; get smaller 'cake donut' offerings; Greg and Shirley Schultz, Ray and Amy Bissen to host upcoming dates; no fellowship is to be held in the summer; frequency will continue to be evaluated as there are so many other events.
- Parish Picnic – discussion about the potential to alter Mass times on the day of the picnic to promote unity; there are many pros and cons.

**New Business:**

- Parish Governance – New guidelines for the Pastoral Council from the Diocesan Office were sent to each member of the council. Stephen Nelson and Deacon Scot Berkley attend council meetings but are not voting members. Bill Lawrence noted both he and Terry Evans are technically trustees, leaving our current council membership at 5, and we have an opportunity to add more (5-7 suggested). Cheryl Meger noted the Diocesan guidelines state the council membership should reflect the diversity of the parish. Instead of an election, the pastor calling potential members directly and requesting their assistance was the agreed upon approach. Pastoral Council members may make suggestions of potential members for Msgr. Cook to call.
- Mass counts – continue to rise.
- Proposal – Msgr. Cook suggested the Pastoral Council begin meeting quarterly (May, August, November, and February), with a meeting time of 5:30 to precede a Finance Council meeting on each date, with a Pastor's Report given once between the meetings with both councils present.

**Next Meeting:** April 30, 2024 @ 5:30 pm

**Agenda Planning for Next Meeting:**

- Parish Directory
- Additional agenda items may be forwarded to the council chair via email.

**Meeting Adjourned:** By Jackie Evans 7:02 pm. Closing prayer and blessing by Msgr. Cook.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Ann Meger, Secretary