

Minutes Liturgical Meeting
Saint John of the Cross Parish
held
at
St. Genevieve Hall
7 pm Thursday October 17, 2019

Opening Prayer was said by Mary Colford

O God,

You know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us throughout our time of transition. Empower each one of us to use our unique gifts to create a beautiful life, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience and joy. Instill in us a vision of the life you intended for us to lead. Guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Attendance:

Fr. Vincent, Bill Barter, Charlene Bonang, Kay Bruce, Mary Colford, Marlene Higgins, Marianne Nash, Tina Pettipas, Shelley Zareski
Regrets: Theresa Young

Fr. Vincent shared with us the following excerpt:

Excerpted from: "A Community of Disciples" by Des Robertson

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"If we want to become one with God, then we need to strive to become love as God is love. It makes sense—if we are not love, then we are not compatible with love, and we cannot be compatible with God.

God is love. But this is a vast oversimplification. God is within, above, and beyond love and infinitely beyond that again., way beyond anything we can grasp. And so, it is true to state that God is love—but not as we understand love. God's love is beyond perfection or any of the other limits we may place on it. But because we need to be practical and rely on our own best but inadequate human understanding of God, let's accept that God is love. I feel certain that a loving God does not want us to complicate it any more than that. God will be more than happy if we strive to become love in our best inadequate way, so we can be one with him.

We cannot hope to understand God but, in our natural desire to be one with him, we are driven to try to understand. And as we seek to understand, ever more is revealed to us. In exploring my relationship with God and Church, the simple understanding "God is love" is always my point of departure. When I hear confusing or contradictory messages, I always come back to this truth to start my questioning and discernment.

If God is love, then our understanding of love will help us to explore and better understand God. So what do we know about love?

We know that you can't do love alone, and this immediately raises the question: How could God be love before creation, if he had no one to love? Suddenly the Trinity makes sense. In the Trinity, God is a relationship of three in one, a perfect relationship of love."

Fr. Vincent expressed his thoughts in relation to this the second meeting where we had the opportunity to come together. Fr. stated that he was pleased to see that we are all striving to be better – "to love."

There have been some who have spoken to Fr. with concerns about the inconsistency of the Lector's and Eucharistic Ministers as they perform their Ministries. We are four congregations coming together to Minister bringing with us the customs of our former church. The inconsistency that is apparent now will in time be more fluid.

Fr. Vincent's background is Religious Education. That is the perspective he brings to us. The Priest is the Minister; the Lay People are Co-Ministers. As the Pastor Fr. wants everyone to know how much he values them and wishes them to be comfortable in all that they do as Lay Ministers. We must all try to be relaxed as we are coming together. We are "Family". If something doesn't get done ie the Altar has not been set up prior to Mass time Fr. will just say "Let's Go!" You are not late we will get it in time.

Fr. wants us to calm down, relax and to just do what we are supposed to do.

There was considerable discussion concerning Adoration prior Mass. Fr. explained he has provided an opportunity before Mass on Saturday and the 9 am Mass on Sunday for the faith community to come together to experience a time of "Reflection" allowing those present to feel the quiet sanctity while the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and the Rosary is said. The perfect segue into Mass.

Fr. was very explicit about the need for silence especially in the presence of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Respecting the "sacred space".

Major attention should be given as people start arriving for Mass before Exposition is over. The Greeters should have the doors closed to the Narthex. They should quietly greet those entering the church.

We all should display a "joyfulness" during Mass. Fr. also told us that we should be loudest at the door as we leave Mass.

September

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament:

Adoration at St. Genevieve Church resumed on Friday after the 9 am Mass until 3 pm.

The Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Community Rosary and Exposition are held at 3:15pm Saturday preceding the 4pm Mass and Sunday morning at 8:15am preceding the 9am Mass.

The Rosary will be said on Sunday before 11 am Mass.

October

October is set aside as a special month in which we pray to Mary, Our Blessed Mother to intercede for us.

Thanksgiving

St. Genevieve Church Building and Sanctuary were decorated for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The beautiful decorations ensured that a very warm welcome greeted all who entered the church over the Thanksgiving weekend.

It was suggested that an invitation could be extended to the faith community with a notice in the bulletin and announcements when decorating is required. Many hands make light work.

November

All Saints Day Mass

Saint Genevieve November 1, 2019 at 9 am and 6 pm.

All Souls Day Mass Annual Mass for the Dead

Saint Genevieve November 2, 2019 4 pm. There will be visits to the Cemeteries as follows:

- 1 pm St. Anselm/St. Anne
- 2 pm St. Philip Neri Mine Road
- 3 pm St. Genevieve

Only the Rosary will be said before Mass on this occasion.

Mary and Trish will send Letters of Invitation to those families who lost a loved this year.

Marlene Higgins, Charlene Bonang and Marianne Nash will take care of the preparations for this Special Mass. Things will be a little different this year as All Souls Day falls on Saturday.

Book of Life will be in place as per usual.

There will be a Reception following the Mass for the Dead November 2, 2019.

Feast of Christ the King Sunday November 24, 2019. Fr. plans to introduce the Financial Council at the 9 am Mass.

December

Children's Mass 10 am Sunday December 1, 2019 (The First Sunday of Advent)

This Mass will be coordinated by Marianne Nash and Darren Richard and Wanda Richard.

The Jesse Tree Tradition will take place at 9:45 am

Annual Ecumenical Advent Service

Sunday December 2, 2017 at Saint Genevieve Church. The service will consist of music, song and readings the 4 churches will be participating. Refreshments and Fellowship to follow in the church hall.

Reconciliation

Saint Genevieve TBA Fr. will check with Fr. Fabian and the other priests.

Christmas Masses

St. Genevieve Tuesday December 24, 2019 Mass 6:30 pm Carols 6 pm Choir will be Mary Colford. Mass at 9 pm Carols at 8:30 pm Fr. will ask Dave and Sharon Riel. Mass at 11 pm Carols at 10:30 pm Fr. will ask Darren Richard. St. Genevieve Wednesday December 25, 2019 Mass at 10 am Nothing was decided about a choir for Christmas morning.

New Year's Masses

St. Genevieve New Year's Eve Tuesday December 31, 2019 Mass 4 pm.

*St. Genevieve New Year's Day Wednesday January 1, 2019 Mass at 10 am Nothing was decided about a choir for either New Year's Mass.

* NB: Holy Day of Obligation – Mary, Mother of God

FYI: Annual Lenten Ecumenical Services

The drapes for Statues to be brought over from St. Philip Neri.

The Transition Team Has not completed their work as yet. A leadership Team will be appointed in due course. As well as a Community Life Committee.

Formation of Committees/Training for new volunteers

These are some of the groups to be formed:

Liturgical Committee
Lectors/Lay Readers
Eucharistic Ministers
Pastoral Service
Director of Music
Funeral/Bereaved Committee

Fr. Vincent sent us off with a prayer.

Meeting closed just after 9 pm.

If I missed anything, or mis-spoke please advise I may be reached via email or by phone (902)889-2022. Thank you.

God bless,
Diane