

Parish Council Minutes
Church of Corpus Christi
Tuesday, May 22nd, 2018, 7:36pm, KC Hall at the Roseville Professional Building

In Attendance: Fr. Robert Fitzpatrick, Jill Klausing (Chair), Mo Boxrud (Vice-Chair), Tony Valois (Secretary), Sandy Banaszak, Jim Colten, Kirk Enzenauer, Toni Leach (staff liaison), plus members of the Saint Rose parish council.

Absent: Judy Plante, Betsy Madden.

Visitors: none.

Prayer: Fr. Fitzpatrick.

Fr. Fitz summarized the reason for this meeting to bring everyone up to speed in the discussion the weekend Mass schedule of both parishes. Based on recent information from the Archdiocese the new incoming pastor will not be able to depend upon the assistance of another priest for the saying any of the weekend Masses. Consequently, the cluster of Saint Rose and Corpus Christi needs a combined "cluster" schedule that allows him to be able to do them all when necessary. This does not mean he will always have to do them all, but we need to be prepared for that eventuality. In all likelihood, the time is coming in the not too distant future when very little help will be available most of the time. Therefore, even if we might be tempted to put this discussion off for a while the day is soon coming when we will have to create a cluster schedule regardless. Now, at the transition to a new pastor, is the appropriate time to have this discussion. The appropriate time to begin the new schedule would be for the new pastor's first Mass on Saturday evening of July 7th. Given we still need a minimum of a few weeks to get the word out about a new schedule there is no time to waste.

For a schedule to be workable, there must be at least 1.5 hours between the Masses. Fortunately, the close proximity of the two parishes makes this not too burdensome for the presider. In addition, given how empty the two churches are at the best of times there is no reason to regularly overburden the presider with a schedule that has more than four Masses on a weekend. Even at that, unless something changes drastically both churches are unlikely to average even half full. This leads to the basic schedule structure of one Sunday morning Mass and one evening Mass for both parishes. Further, morning Masses before 9:00am and after 11:00am should be avoided as they would likely be unpopular, especially as there are no alternative times for people to choose from at a given parish. Also, an anticipated evening Mass may not start before 4:00pm by Canon Law.

Fr. Fitz then summarized the issues around the Sunday morning schedule including the existing Sunday School programs at both parishes. Including the Mass attendance data from the Archdiocese, the recent history of Sunday morning schedules, and his own perceived preferences held by the congregations, he suggested the earlier Mass be at Saint Rose and the later at Corpus Christi. After a brief discussion the group quickly settled in on a 9:00am Mass at Saint Rose and a 10:30am Mass at Corpus Christi. The group consensus was that there really was no other viable option and considered that decision made.

The issues with the evening Masses was more complicated and a great deal of discussion ensued. The most pertinent data included that the Saint Rose 4:30pm anticipated Mass was by far their most popular Mass on a weekend. This suggests trying for a minimal adjustment of that 4:30pm Mass if possible, which would also be consistent with Saint Rose retaining one evening Mass. The two evening Masses at Corpus Christi have a very similar attendance count but a significantly different attendee profile. Consequently the question of which evening Mass to drop was much more complicated with no clear-cut choice. In the end we chose to use some of the small amount of time remaining before July 7th to get additional input from the parishes before proceeding with a decision on the evening Masses. Working from our discussion it was clear there really were only a couple of likely choices and hence when we bring the issue to the parishes we should also bring these choices rather than start from scratch all over again. In addition, given that at least some local Catholic churches have a seasonal variation in how they handle their Sunday evening Mass it was decided to also include a third choice with a seasonal variation, even though it did not seem likely to be favored by many. The idea was that we should consider and discuss all viable possibilities. We would then meet for a second time as a combined council on June 5th to give a final recommendation to the pastor on the schedule, giving us about two weeks to solicit input and about a month to get the word out about the new schedule.

Proposed Cluster Schedules:

Sunday morning is already decided with Saint Rose at 9:00am and Corpus Christi at 10:30am. Including the three different proposals for the evening schedule we end up with:

Scenario One: Keep the Corpus Christi Sunday Mass at 6pm:

- Saturday, 4:30pm at Saint Rose
- Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (Sunday School during the 9am Mass)
- Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (Sunday School starts at 10am)
- Sunday, 6pm at Corpus Christi

Scenario Two: Keep the Saturday Mass at Corpus Christi:

- Saturday, 4pm at Saint Rose
- Saturday, 5:30pm at Corpus Christi
- Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (Sunday School during the 9am Mass)
- Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (Sunday School starts at 10am)

Scenario Three: Keep the Sunday 6pm Mass for the summer, Memorial Day to Labor Day, and switch to the Saturday Mass from Labor Day to Memorial Day:

Summer

- Saturday, 4pm at Saint Rose
- Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (No Sunday School)
- Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (No Sunday School)
- Sunday, 6pm at Corpus Christi

School Year

- Saturday, 4pm at Saint Rose
- Saturday, 5:30pm at Corpus Christi
- Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (Sunday School during the 9am Mass)
- Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (Sunday School starts at 10am)

Final Note: the schedules with the 4:00 Mass on Saturday at Saint Rose will require additional adjustments by both parishes because of conflicts with Saturday events such as weddings and probably require a more complex individual reconciliation schedule as well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Respectfully submitted, Tony Valois (Secretary).