



Saint James the Greater Church

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Pastoral Council Agenda

April 7, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Church Hall

Nancy Holt, Joan Schulte, Nancy Thomas, Ed Lanter, Jen Roth, Evan Day, Deacon Crooker, Fr Nolker

1) **Opening Prayer** All 7:00 p.m.

2) **Faith Formation** All 7:05 – 7:15 p.m.

Reading: John 20:19-31 (Gospel for Second Sunday of Easter)

I think of Catholics today; faith is what we are based on. I know that I fall into the category of a doubting Thomas. Dealing with the cancer I had, I had no doubts I would make it through. Since my husband died, and I am alone, when I have doubts, and things work out somehow, and I realize that God has given me the strength to get through things I didn't think I could. I am so grateful, I am so close to God. I thank God everyday for helping me. With respect to the doubt; you see it by the doubt of what you see in the news. By prayer and reflection I can come back to my belief. Certain things I go through, esp with my kids, the doubt is there, but through faith. When my oldest was young he was diagnosed with a very serious kidney disease, and within years this abruptly was corrected. The doctor said if you don't have faith, you should now. There was no explanation for the healing. I had a foundation of faith, even though I doubted, but God was always there.

3) **Report on Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** Deacon. Crooker 7:15-8:00 p.m.

We had Easter vigil this year!! Wonderful liturgy, andSet A: Carla and Max and Veda had never been baptized. Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist at Easter Vigil.

Wonderful participants to receive full initiation into the church April 18th. There is a program they go through, but it is the community that helps and supports these people. And people's stories resonate with candidates.

We are looking forward to the next couple weeks. You can all start evangelizing now, for the next year.

The church requires if you receive a baptized person into the church and if they are older than 7, they must also be confirmed, and receive Eucharist.

I think this puts into perspective who we are as a parish. Many people come into the church through the children. It is good to remember that the school is a ministry of the parish. The stories of people that go through the program --NOT process--it is specific and reactive to the people. It always includes the doctrine and the catechesis. You talk to people, they have spent 50 years thinking about becoming Catholic. All this hooey about evangelization programs; people usually come to faith due to personal interactions, and personal connections. I admire my neighbor. I want to be like them. Carla went home and was able to talk to her husband. Catechesis is the framework of what RCIA is. The people in the parish. At what age would Carla's kids be able to be baptized? With husband's Lutheran base, the process was tweaked for a Catholic understanding. When he became Catholic, he could make the profession of faith for his boys. With First communion postponed to October, it helped some families including Carla's son. He could make First communion with his classmates.

Events were spread out due to Covid. Ceremonies were at the Easter Vigil and will be on April 18th. On April 18, those baptized in another denomination will be received. We "regularized"/validated 2 weddings.

This is the time that becoming Catholic is in the forefront.

Carla, who went through RCIA, has come this evening to share her experience.

Carla: raised Baptist. At that time not Baptized. At age 11, family stopped going to church. Lots of Catholics in the family. Felt like I was missing out. Typical Gen Xer: have faith, but don't need religion. Worked as a nurse in ICU. Saw some miracles. Brought me back to my faith. Met husband, had kids. I prayed throughout the years. We began discussion about how we wanted to raise our kids. But we let life get in the way of doing anything. Toured St. James, Mr. Fulmer really sold it! I knew this was the place for them. Started going to church. Maxwell, now in 2nd grade. Sacrament of Reconciliation. Got a call that he could not receive First Communion since he was not Catholic. Ben, husband, did some private study. Covid made things difficult. Carla met with Deacon Tim, Fr. Nolker, started classes. Deacon Tim encouraged us to have our hearts open, to ask questions, no pressure. He had parishioners come in and tell their story. None of them really struck a chord with me. But, they all told stories of how they are living as a Christians. They made me think; they sealed the deal about me wanting to be Catholic, and helped me to raise the next generation. Saturday, Easter Vigil was wonderful. I cried when Fr. Nolker said we love you--then the water works started. Already I have spoken to a few people regarding my journey, one of which is seriously considering RCIA himself. The St. James community has been so wonderful and supportive.

Given a book: *I'm Catholic, now What?*

Tim will be spending some time over the next weeks in discussion with the new initiates.

It might be a good idea to give a copy of the Easter Vigil to the RCIA to the new candidates. Recording was 2 hours; mass was 2 hours 15 minutes.

Masses can be archived as long as we have space with the company.

Thank you Deacon Tim. Carla speaks very highly of you, as have other past RCIA candidates.

- 4) **Issues from the Chair** Nancy Holt 8:00-8:15 p.m.
- New members (Evan, Jim and Nancy Thomas complete their terms.)
 - Ideas for the next Parish Life?

Evan, Jim, Nancy Thomas have reached their terms. If you know of any good candidates to serve on PC, let Nancy Holt know. Having Evan's youth perspective has been great. It would be great if there is another young person to serve on council. All council concur that a youth/high school perspective is beneficial.

Getting ready to publish another magazine of Parish Life. One thing is to get information regarding various organizations, and what they do. When do they meet, what is their intent. One idea is an organizational ministry fair in the fall, in the church Hall. Have info about them in the magazine ahead of time. Late April--deadline for information. Published end of May. If there are themes you think people would like to see. Use the magazine to promote the parish itself, more pictures, was the original intent, then Covid hit. And activities stopped.

Ideas: about the school, and end of school year. Different kind of year.

Month of blessed virgin.

Welcome new members of the parish

Music ministry

Easter masses and how wonderful they were

Shepherds of Christ doing the rosary.

5) **Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Nolker

8:15-8:25 p.m.

- Update on live-stream camera
- First Communion (April 17, 24, May 1)
- Easter Attendance
- Other items

Festival: No idea what we are doing. Talk yesterday with Mary Lackman. Governor says: do festivals. But wear masks, no carrying around beverages...from safety and time perspective, a full festival is not realistic. We are months behind in preparation at this point. Looks like there will be some sort of afternoon event. Major Raffle adjusted. Mary is looking at the numbers, to realign the amounts on that. Looking at something along the lines of a tailgate party. Food trucks, entertainment, award drawings, major award drawings. Parish focused event. In doing this, cut major expenses. Something will happen prob on that last weekend (Sunday) of July (1-4 pm, 1-6pm, on that Sunday). The plan right now is baskets from each organization, available to view in the church hall the month of July.

Tailgate: persons responsibility what is brought. Food trucks: we don't have to have inspections.

Working on the livestream cameras. We have determined the spots for an additional camera. Meeting tomorrow.

Holy week mass attendance via Livestream: Holy Thursday: 279, Good Friday 279. Easter vigil: 315. Easter Sunday 8 am 229, Easter Sunday 10 am: 840 viewers. Sunday average ~400. Funerals 28-46. Daily masses 30-55.

2nd camera will give more dynamism to the mass. Watching father do his sprinkling rites.

Evan shout out for the readings on Good Friday. Got props from friend of Tim's.

2nd camera being payed for by a parishioner who appreciates the streamed masses.

April 17, 24, May 1: first communion dates.

Palm Sunday 469 in person attendance

Easter Vigil: 170 in person attendance

8 am Easter Sunday 229 in person attendance

10am Easter Sunday 318 in person attendance

So many unexpected live and Livestream attended during holy week. People had to think about/plan to be present. People who have not been present for a year. We don't know when dispensation will be relaxed.

John Merritt scholarships: grants 2 - \$750 scholarships for St James. \$2000 for high school students, for each of the 4 years Only 6 applicants. 7 applications for the grade school scholarships. St Mary's society gives \$ as well. Only 3 applicants. Mr. Fulmer does a great job of publicizing the scholarships available. Recipients have been picked. Catholic High school, at expected level of study, and Fr. Nolker has to assure involvement in

parish, and 1 extra curricular activity. Not based on academics. Very simple application. Not cumbersome. Essay about value of Catholic education.

Beacons of Light convocation April 21st. Should be at the point of information, projection of school age families, with report to archdiocese, and recommendation of consolidation of parishes. We have not heard anything as of yet. Morning part of convocation focuses on Racism.

Note: Finance Council will be reviewing the proposed budget for 2021-2022 in mid-April. We have been submitting it to Pastoral Council by email for the recommendation to Father. We will follow this process again unless there are objections made at the April 7 meeting. No objections

Mr. Fulmer will be at the May 5th meeting for his annual report.

Is OLG having a school next year? I believe they are in firm shape, and will have a school at St. Ann's. Word made it to Archdiocese that school lease was not renewed, and it was not received well. Little Flower and Margaret Mary are renting out their space. OLG will pay for their use of the square footage space/maintenance at St. Ann's, the financial situation is stable. And there is a school there next year. It is a good recognition that the school is independent of the parish.

Beacons of Light: Reconsideration of the structure of Catholic schools. Goal of no more than 1 school for any group cluster of parishes.

Distinction of parochial and private school. Providing education for parishioners=parochial. Private School: when you open enrollment to non Catholics. If more of the school children are not Catholic, parishes struggle with this. Financially the parish is supporting an alternative non public school. All kinds of complications and discussions regarding this situations.

At St. James: will not take more than 12-13% non catholic students. It may go to 15% next year.

- 6) **Night Prayer** All 8:10 p.m.
Tom Schornak is scheduled to present the brief Scripture reading during Night Prayer.
Led instead by Fr. Nolker in Tom's absence.

Next Meeting May 5th

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Gandenberger