

Combined Pastoral Council Meeting
St Michael, St Mary of the Valley, Holy Cross
Tuesday November 5th , 2024
Meet in St Michael Hall at 6:30 pm

Pastoral Council Members:

Holy Cross: Carmella Barger, Elodia Gonzalez, Angel & Emilia Herrera, Brian Doyle, Pat Thomson, Guy Hazelzet, Laurel Cheap

St Michael: Robin Kreul, Jack Stiegler, Kerry Lynch, Judy Bartelheimer, Patty Wunsch, Jeremy McIver, Claudia Barajas, Consuelo Gonzales, Gene Vanderzanden

St Mary of the Valley: Austin Mitchell, Cathy Ortiz, Cristofer Barajas, Jim McDaniel, John Sekreta, Jorge Maldonado, Mariana Medina, Janina Meeks, Meriza Vincent

Agenda

- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Speaker Rosa Rivera
- ❖ Carol and Joel

Meeting Calendar

November 5th
December 3rd
January 7th
February 4th
March 4th
April 1st
May 6th
June 3rd

Growth: All of our parishes are growing and we anticipate future growth with increased construction in our area. We need to decide if all of our locations will stay the same. One issue is that none of our current facilities are large enough to accommodate a combined feast day celebration.

Maintenance: Currently, only St. Mary of the Valley has a facilities person on staff (John, 30 hours per week). Holy Cross and St. Michael's now have C A R General Contracting on call, owned and operated by Holy Cross parishioners Joel and Carol Rummell. They are available for consultations and maintenance projects. Joel and Carol introduced themselves and talked about their backgrounds and types of work they are currently doing and available to do for the parishes.

Bookkeeping: Annette Van Dyke, bookkeeper at Holy Cross, will be retiring in the spring. At that time, Janice George will take over the Holy Cross bookkeeping. Janice currently does the bookkeeping for St. Michael's and St. Mary of the Valley so this will consolidate the bookkeeping across the parish family.

Youth ministry: Amy Traugott is now in charge of youth ministry at both St. Michael's and Holy Cross. As of now, they will continue to operate as separate programs.

Faith formation: We are currently working to combine the faith formation efforts, establishing the same program and curriculum for all of the parishes.

Common policies: An effort is underway to align and document policies and procedures across our parishes in an effort to be more consistent.

Liturgy/music: This will be the last area where any changes might be made. Currently, each parish has their own way of celebrating and there is no need to make changes, especially to mass times. We want to retain stability and continuity as long as possible.

New ministries: We are not looking to add ministries but to focus on doing our current ministries really well. We don't have the capacity to add programs unless we give something up. We need to be careful not to burn out our staff or volunteers by taking on more.

Leadership: As leaders in our communities, we should be setting the example by being positive, encouraging and supportive. We should not criticize but build each other up.

St. Michael School: Rosa Rivera, principal, and Fr. Jay shared information about and discussed various issues with the school.

- There are currently 154 students at the school which serves preschool through 8th grade.
- The school will become our regional catholic school. To do that, it needs to expand which will be difficult as there is no more space currently available at St. Michael's.
- Finances for the school are complicated. The archdiocese expects sponsoring parishes to subsidize their schools with 15-20% of their revenue. St. Michael's currently supports the school with 15% of its revenue along with shared space and utilities. Should the other parishes in our family also have a financial quota? Should emergency expenditures also be shared by the whole parish family?
- With limited space, admission priority is an issue. How will priority be determined amongst the parish family, especially if the parishes are all contributing financially?
- Parents with students at the school report that transportation is a big problem.
- To address these issues and others, a committee will be formed. It will include council members and the principal. Please let your administration know if you would like to participate in this important effort.

Roof project: St. Mary of the Valley is in need of a new roof. Estimates are that it will cost \$300,000. A loan can be secured from the archdiocese (approximately \$30,000 per year for 15 years, \$2,500 per month). St. Mary of the Valley has started a second collection and various (delicious) fundraising efforts to raise money for this project.

Table talk: There were small group discussions about other topics the council members are concerned about.

—submitted by Laurel Cheap, Nov. 11, 2024