

**St. Raphael Parish Pastoral Council  
Minutes of the Feb. 9, 2021 Meeting**

Attendance: Fr. Dan Bachner, Fr. Jose "MM" Cerna, Deacon Kurt Lange, Pete Makris, Kate Helm, Dan Koys, Dennis Kiraly, Sue Sullivan, Jenn Pfundstein, Bob Barron, Paul Betten, Marian Johnston, Andy Blank, Joy Brackett, and Lacy Cortez

Absent: Jim Shannon

- I. Opening Prayer: Sue Sullivan
- II. Old Business
  - A. The new linking member for Adult Faith Formation Commission is Deacon Kurt Lange.
  - B. January meeting minutes were approved.
  - C. Reopening and Bringing People Back
    1. We are encouraging people to get vaccinated.
- III. Pastor's Report
  - A. The Gala raised \$100,000 for the school.
  - B. Facilities projects:
    1. Skylights must be repaired.
    2. We might do the parking lot and the flat roof.
  - C. Lent in General
    1. The environment in the church is the desert (for example, using cactus plants).
    2. Novena for Our Lady of Sorrows will be held on Tuesdays from Feb. 23 to April 20.
    3. Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays.
    4. We will no longer require people to sign up for weekday Masses.
  - D. Ash Wednesday
    1. Masses offered at 8:30 am, 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm.
    2. Ashes will be distributed at each of those Masses and between all Masses.
  - E. Fr. MM said that he appreciated all of the concern that parishioners showed him regarding the death of his mother.
- IV. Commission Report Highlights
  - A. Liturgical Life (Sue Sullivan reporting):
    1. We will keep the door at the far right open during weekday Masses. It will no longer be locked just before the beginning of Mass.
    2. Some parishioners do not think it is safe to attend Mass.
      - a) We will keep the Covid protocols for Sunday Masses.
      - b) We will start opening up somewhat for weekday Masses.
  - B. Adult Faith Formation (Deacon Kurt Lange reporting):
    1. AFF has been busy planning the Consecration to Saint Joseph.
    2. Zoom meetings have been working well this year.
    3. The commission is starting to think about next year.
  - C. Finance (Dennis Kiraly reporting):
    1. Collections are down.
      - a) They are 12% under the budgeted amount for Sundays.
      - b) They were 25% under the budgeted amount for Christmas.
    2. All parish departments have cut their expenses such that they are all under budget.
    3. The Diocese of Joliet will do its audit of the parish books within the next 60 days. This is a normal procedure that takes place every three years.
    4. Online giving has increased.
  - D. Religious Education (Jenn Pfundstein reporting):
    1. First Reconciliation was held for the children. Many more parents received the sacrament than in previous years.
    2. The Confirmation retreat for our young people is coming up.
    3. There will be a mission trip in July.

4. RE classes will remain on Zoom for the rest of the academic year.
- E. School (Kate Helm reporting):
  1. We will increase from one to two kindergarten classes next academic year.
  2. There is currently a wait list for most grades.
  3. There will be no sports for now.
  4. The school is giving input to Districts 203 and 204 regarding reopening to in-class teaching.
  5. The school is working on a strategic plan.
- F. Service Ministry (Bob Barron reporting):
  1. We participated in the diocese's Walk for Life.
  2. We are collecting cleaning goods for Loaves & Fishes.
  3. A commission member is working with the diocese on climate change issues.
  4. We need a few more transitional housing mentors.
  5. We will participate in 40 Days for Life at the Aurora Planned Parenthood facility.
- G. Pastoral Care (Paul Betten reporting):
  1. This ministry is on hold because of Covid restrictions.
- H. Staff (Marian Johnston reporting):
  1. The loan from the first round of PPP has been forgiven.
  2. We have applied for the second round of PPP loans.
  3. The staff in planning for next year.
- I. Young Adult Commission (Andy Blank reporting):
  1. Nothing new to report.
- J. Miscellaneous Reports from At-Large Members
  1. Dan Koys noted that the PPC is ready, willing and able to give counsel to Fr. Dan.
- V. New Business
  - A. Covid Impact - Latest Changes
    1. Masses are limited to 25% of the church's capacity; that's about 325 people per Mass.
- VI. Closing Prayer: Fr. MM