

**St. Raphael Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Meeting (revised on 04-10-2021)**

Attendance: Fr. Dan Bachner, Fr. Jose "MM" Cerna, Pete Makris, Kate Helm, Dan Koys, Dennis Kiraly, Sue Sullivan, Jenn Pfundstein, Bob Barron, Marian Johnston, Joy Brachtet, Lacy Cortez.  
Absent: Deacon Kurt Lange (due to a Zoom mix-up), Paul Betten, Andy Blank.

- I. Opening Prayer: Kate Helm
- II. Old Business
  - A. The minutes of the February PPC meeting were approved.
  - B. Reopening and Bringing People Back
    - 1. Fr. Dan is asking the various parish departments to judge what activities should and should not be part of our ongoing parish mission.
    - 2. For Easter Masses, people will be required to call the parish, rather than sign up on the website. This is because for Christmas Masses, many people signed up for multiple Masses since they were not sure which Mass they wanted to attend.
    - 3. The past couple of weeks has seen an increase in the number of people attending Mass.
- III. Pastor's Report
  - A. Lenten Services
    - 1. Many people are participating in the consecration to St. Joseph.
    - 2. We are holding services for Our Lady of Sorrows on Tuesday evenings.
    - 3. Palms will be available on a table outside the church on Palm Sunday.
    - 4. We are struggling to get certain lay ministers (for example, hospitality ministers and people to pass the collection baskets).
  - B. Operations
    - 1. We have applied for the second round of PPP loans.
    - 2. We will finish the blacktop of the parking lot.
    - 3. We are working on getting the skylights fixed.
    - 4. We bought a statue of St. Joseph to be displayed outside the church.
  - C. Fr. MM's Comments
    - 1. He is working with Deacon Len Penkala to make a training tape for altar servers.
- IV. Commission Reports
  - A. Liturgical Life (Sue Sullivan reporting):
    - 1. We are getting more people back for liturgy ministries.
    - 2. Robert Frazier is designing a training program to inform the returning people about changes made during the pandemic.
    - 3. The liturgy office is contacting liturgical ministers.
      - a) This is to determine their preferred means of contact.
      - b) It is also to determine who will and will not return to this ministry.
  - B. Adult Faith Formation (no report)
  - C. Finance (Dennis Kiraly reporting):
    - 1. Sunday collections are down, primary the loose money in the collection baskets.
    - 2. The refund from the diocese's Annual Appeal was more than we were planned for.
    - 3. The fiscal year-to-date deficit is \$158,000.
  - D. Religious Education (Jenn Pfundstein reporting):
    - 1. The students did a hands-on activity to describe what they are doing for Lent.
    - 2. The RE retreat went well.
    - 3. There may be a spring retreat held outside.
    - 4. RE is hoping to bring back the Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Fall.
  - E. School (Kate Helm reporting):
    - 1. There was no March meeting of the School Commission.
  - F. Service Ministry (Bob Barron reporting):

1. About 1,400 pounds of cleaning supplies were collected and donated to Loaves & Fishes. Additional cleaning supplies are always welcome.
2. The Service Ministry is participating in the diocese's 40 Days for Life (for example, people meet outside Waterleaf to pray).
3. The Samaritan Ministry is helping non-profit organizations seeking funding.
- G. Pastoral Care (Paul Betten reporting via email)
  1. The Hospital and Steven Ministries are on hold due to the Cover virus.
- H. Staff (Marian Johnston reporting):
  1. The staff departments are looking at which ministries we need to continue and which ones may be discontinued.
- I. Young Adult (no report)
- J. Miscellaneous
  1. Joyce Brackett praised our parish's Masses, especially in comparison to other parishes.
  2. Dan Koys praised the parish staff members who produce the videos of our Masses.
  3. Pete Makris
    - a) He informed the PPC that lawmakers in the State of Illinois are debating new laws that would eliminate the need for minor children to get parental consent for an abortion. He will send a link to the council members so they can express their concern to lawmakers.
    - b) He highly encourages people to participate in the Consecration to St. Joseph. This can be done independently or with a group.
- V. New Business
  - A. Covid-19 Impact: Marian Johnston answered some questions that a parishioner expressed to Dan Koys.
    1. Question: Which Masses are the best and worst for compliance with the diocese's Covid-19 precautions (for example, sanitizing hands, wearing masks over mouths and noses, and social distancing)?
      - a) Answer: Our parishioners and guests comply with the diocese's guidelines. After 10 months everyone understands what is expected of them: masks, social distancing and sanitizing.
    2. Question: How does the parish deal with people who refuse to follow the Covid-19 precautions?
      - a) Answer: Parishioners and guests are instructed at the door about the guidelines. To our knowledge, only one person left after refusing to wear a mask, this happened months ago.
    3. Question: How many times has the parish had to notify Mass attendees of potential Covid-19 exposures (that is, through contact tracing)?
      - a) Answer: We had one occasion when we had to notify families that attended a funeral. One of the guests tested positive four days after returning home to California. The guest is a doctor, and she told us she was sure she was not ill at the time she was at our church.
    4. Question: Do we need continuing education of Covid-19 precautions so that people do not become too lax too soon (for example, saying that our parish continues to follow the guidelines from the diocese and from the CDC)?
      - a) Answer: We will continue to follow the guidelines as instructed by the diocese. Our website, signage and announcements will change when new directives are issued from the diocese.
  - B. Joy Brackett mentioned a question she received from a parishioner.
    1. Question: Will the crying room be re-opened?
      - a) Answer: No, it will remain locked, at least until after Easter. The nursery will not be open until next Fall.
- VI. Closing Prayer: Fr. MM