



October 2020

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

PURPOSE:

- 1. Discuss the Strategic Planning Final Review Process**
- 2. Learn of the Work Underway by Saint James Committees**

The Strategic Planning Final Review Process.

- Strategic Planning, beginning with the parish-wide survey, is on schedule (a 13-18-month process based on monthly meetings).
- Parishioner survey responses have been thoroughly reviewed and shaped into actionable goals, objectives and functional steps. The full Parish Council and Strategic Planning Advisors will review for approval and implementation at its November 10th meeting.
- The Parish Council expects to have a finalized and printed version the first of the year.

Work Underway by Saint James Committees

Faith Formation – Sister Augusta, Chair

- **Women's Retreat** - Sister Augusta reported that the Women's Retreat held on site the weekend of October 9-10, was well received. Fifty women attended in person (with a waiting list). Fifteen attended virtually using Zoom. Several young mothers attended because it was held at Saint James. Sr. Augusta and Sr. Mary Agnes facilitated the retreat focused on "Finding Peace."
- **Advent: The Vigil Project** - In Advent, the Vigil Project will again present music testimony - Ignite Your Parish. Date to be announced.
- **Advent by Candlelight, an evening of prayer and community** for Saint James women, is scheduled for December 19th. Watch the bulletin for additional information.
- Father Kirby is considering hosting *Advent by Taillight* for the men in the parish. Details to come.
- **Exploring Catholicism** - Jason Hall, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, recently spoke to parishioners on Catholic life.

- **Family Faith Formation** - Currently 24 families are registered. Discussions are going well.

Finance - Greg Schreacke, Chair

Saint James has a positive cash flow for the first time since 2016. Reasons cited:

1. Expenses were reduced.
 2. Going to tuition along with increase in tithing.
 3. The additional contribution ask from Father Scott to parishioners
 4. Refinancing our debt was credited to contribute to positive balance.
 5. Operating expenses declined 19% for the year ending in June 2020 from June 2019.
- Due to COVID-19, Saint James has seen a decline in monthly collections of approximately \$100,000 per month since March 2020.
 - St. James participated in the CARES Act Payroll Protection Program. The parish received \$400,000 under this program to help pay salary expense as directed under the program.

Questions posed to Greg:

Q1. Other than tuition, what is included in school collections?

- A1. Book fees and fall festival are counted in school income.
- Q2. How has tuition vs stewardship affected the number of school families returning to Saint James?
- A2. Tuition covers approximately 30% of expenses in years 1-3. As such, data show that SJS will lose some students. However, there is anticipated student growth in years 4-5.

Q3. Is the Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence worth applying for again?

- A3. Yes. Recognition of that type is well received by the regional community of faith and is noted by those considering sending their children to Saint James.

Parish Life - Lorna Vertrees, Chair

- Lorna reported that most committees have not met since March because of the pandemic. For example, Forever Young has cancelled all meetings for the rest of the year.
- The Knights of Columbus has new chairperson.
- The Children's Play Group is in search of a new leader.
- The Parish Picnic Committee will begin planning for the 2021 Saint James picnic after the first of the year.

Mission Advancement - Jennifer Moran, Director

- Annual stewardship renewal is scheduled for January.
- Training for ministry leaders and social activities hope to resume, coffee and donuts.

- Two welcome dinners for new parishioners will hopefully happen in 2021.

School Board Liaison – Coty Oropilla

- Currently, SJS has 335 students enrolled in Pre-K through 8th grade.
- Team morale is good. Teachers move from classroom to classroom as students stay in their homerooms.
- Beth Barnes is an interim teacher for Arts and English. Debbie Zogleman is interim for Title 1 teacher. Debbie works two days a week to help students struggling with reading and math.
- No COVID-19 cases have been reported by school staff or students.
- SJS's nurse Kim Schreacke, has been a great asset to the school.
- SJS is considering outsourcing the cafeteria next year.
- PTO online magazine drive raised \$21,000.00
- SJS finished MAP testing for grades K-8.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are held in October.
A set tuition amount by November details are being worked out. Father, not sure what this means.
- Jennifer reported that Fort Knox families are moving in. She is working with relocating personnel to help get the word out.

Social Concerns and Outreach – Mimi Pike, Chair

- Respect Life is busy now with the Clarity Walk and placing crosses that represent an aborted child in front of Dr. Godfrey's home.
- Thanksgiving Committee is planning on having the dinner but only delivery or carry out, no dine in.
- The city of Elizabethtown has offered the fire station next to Warm Blessings on Dixie to host Room in the Inn for homeless to have a warm shelter the months of December, January and February. This will allow churches to combine resources to help serve individuals better. It has a shower available to clients.

Stewardship – Paula Knowles, Chair

The Stewardship Committee is working on a booklet for the upcoming "Stewardship – As a Way of Life" parish commitment.

Worship – Jeff Lanz, Chair

- Jeff discussed the need for more altar servers.
- The Art and Environment Committee is planning for Advent and Christmas.
- EHMC, sacristans and lectors are doing well.
- Music is improving.

- Adoration is going strong.
- TV Ministry had to replace some equipment.

Hispanic Ministry – Jackie and Daniel Ortiz, Liaisons

- Hispanic parishioners are active and growing to include a Facebook presence.
- Adoration is 7:00-8:00 on Thursdays.
- The women's group, rosary and bible study are strong.
- The men's group meets on Thursdays.

From Father Michael

- Father Michael noted one staff change: Lauren Overstreet left the St. James office staff to stay home with her children.
- Deacon Dean Sears is now the full-time communication person for the parish.