

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes 9/26/2017

Attendance: Father Basil Lawrence, Christian Spencer, Jenelle Gasper, Katie Edmonds, Annmarie Hare, Laura Plancarte, Evelyn Vazquez, Mindy Doeden

Opening Reflection: Mindy Doeden

Marriage Preparation: Jason Kidd, Director of Marriage and Family Life for the Archdiocese of Portland, video-conferenced with the council. He explained the Archdiocese's recommended steps for marriage preparation. The below information comes from:

<http://famlife.archdpx.org/marriage-prep>.

Steps to Preparing Well for the Sacrament of Matrimony:

- **Continue to pray & discern** if you are ready for this life long decision to share life together. It's recommended to take a full 9 months to prepare for your marriage, as research shows this increases your chance for a life long marriage.
- **Contact your parish** to begin the preparation process (at least 6 Months before your wedding).
- **Go through the 6 Elements of Marriage Preparation:**
 1. Welcome & Intake (parish connection and forms)
 2. Relationship Inventory (Snapshot of your relationship like *Prepare and Enrich*)
 3. Inventory Review & Relationship Tools
 4. Sacramental & Spiritual Matrimony
 5. Sponsor Couples
 6. Follow Up Post Wedding

After walking us through the website and discussing the elements listed above, Jason answered questions.

Couples preparing for marriage at St. Paul's are directed to the Father Bernard Youth Center. The marriage prep program there follows the Archdiocese's program with the exception of paperwork, interview and sponsor couple support. Father Basil completes our paperwork and conducts the interview so he can get to know the couple better. The council thought having a sponsor couple (couple married and active in the Catholic church) follow and support the engaged couple would be a good addition to the program at FBYC.

The next Marriage Preparation Program at FBYC begins October 3rd.

A Tribunal will meet October 28th to answer questions regarding how to get a marriage regularized. Information will be available in English and Spanish.

Parishioner Packets: Updates were provided for each category of the packet including:

- Survey
- Registration
- Advanced Directive
- Funeral & Cemetery Information
- Religious Education Registration
- Online Giving Information
- Ministry Opportunities and contact information

Progress is being made in all areas. Packets should be ready for parishioners in October.

Advent Planning: Advent begins Sunday, December 3rd. Plans for the preparation of Christ's birth include:

- An Advent Fair to be held December 3rd in the school building from 1-5PM.
- Advent books (Little Blue Books) are being ordered for parishioners.
- Additional Reconciliation times are being added to the calendar.
- December's Mercy Night may include a bilingual penance service.
- Las Posadas will take place December 18th-23rd.
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass schedule was discussed due to the 4th Sunday of Advent falling on Christmas Eve.
 - December 23 5PM Vigil Mass
 - December 24 9AM English Mass
 12PM Spanish Mass
 6PM Family Mass
 Midnight Mass
 - December 25 10AM English Mass
 12PM Spanish Mass

Looking Ahead:

- Mercy Nights will be held on the second Thursday of each month again beginning October 12th.
- A Tribunal will meet October 28th to answer questions regarding how to get a marriage regularized. Information will be available in English and Spanish.
- All Saints Day is Wednesday, November 1st. A bilingual Mass will take place at 7PM.
- The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Friday, December 8th. A bilingual Mass will take place at 7PM.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe feast day is December 12th. Celebration plans are pending.
- Next Pastoral Council Meeting will take place October 24th at 7PM.

