

MINUTES OF March 27, 2017 Pastoral Council

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer. Present were Fr. Stec, Herman Zuber, Vicki Stuckey, Cathy McDowell, Stacey Steber, Jane Kocher. Absent were Julie Oesch (Cleveland), Jeffrey Rosenberg (school board mtg.), Ron Smith (no ride) and Mike Dowty.

Mike has resigned from Council due to health reasons. Discussing the matter of replacing Mike, Fr. Mark mentioned Council elections usually held in June at Olney. He would like to see every committee have a representative on the Council. He will work on how he wants to handle filling positions on Council.

Lenten speaker series seems to be going well. Herman mentioned that there is the possibility of many speakers in the community at large that could be hosted to address the Church and its ministry. Hopefully such activities will bring the parish partnership closer together as one unit. Fr. Mark stressed the importance of being proud of being a Catholic. He mentioned the teen kids Fall Bible study at Wendelin to which he also invites adults and many adults have attended the classes. A goal Fr. stressed was the need to overhaul the PSR program, especially at St. Joseph's Olney. There are only 20 students from Olney parish, but 20 from Stringtown and 23 St. Joseph Stringtown kids at St. Joseph School. The PSR program is important to offer religious education and sacramental preparation. Fr. Mark stated that Confirmation will now be every year and only the eighth graders from three parishes.

Fr. mentioned plans for the summer included putting new playground equipment up, getting the old school torn down, etc.

Upcoming events:

Mother-Daughter banquet will be Wednesday, May 10, at 6:00 p.m.

May 15-26 Fr. Mark will be gone on Ireland trip

Eighth grade graduation will be May 17 at Mass on that Wednesday evening

Fr. has decided to celebrate a 10:00 a.m. Mass Easter Sunday morning at St. Joseph's Olney (rather than at 11:30), after taking under advisement discussion of Council members and others

Fr. Mark will see to ringing of altar bells (servers) and church bells (ushers) at Easter services

Next Pastoral Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m. (due to scheduling problems)

Tri-Parish Council will meet on Monday, June 26.

Meeting ended at 8:02 p.m. with prayer for vocations

Respectfully submitted

Jane Kocher