

# TRI-PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

February 26, 2018

7:00 PM at St. Joseph Stringtown Parish Hall

Welcome

**Opening Prayer-led by Fr. Mark**

## **Liturgy and Worship**

Review of Lenten and Easter Week schedules:

- St. Joseph Feast Day-Pastoral Council from St. Joseph's Stringtown will organize
  - Monday, March 19, 6:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph-Stringtown
  - St. Joseph Day Table, 6:45pm in the Parish Hall
  
- Easter Triduum Schedule
  - Holy Thursday, 7:00 pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin
  - Good Friday, 7:00 pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin
  - Easter Vigil, 7:30 pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin
  - Easter Sunday, 8:00 am at St. Joseph-Stringtown
  - Easter Sunday, 10:00 am at St. Joseph-Olney

Three people will be joining the Church. All have been baptized in other churches, so they will receive the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.

- First Communion
  - Saturday, April 7, 4:30 pm at St. Joseph-Olney
  - Saturday, April 7, 6:30 pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown
  - Sunday, April 8, 10:00 am at Holy Cross-Wendelin

(Also, there will be the usual 8:00 am Mass at St. Joseph-Olney on Sunday, April 8)

Confirmation-34 from our parishes and 10 from St. Lawrence in Lawrenceville.

Saturday, April 28, 5:00 pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

(Sunday, April 29, masses: 8:00 am at St. Joseph-Stringtown and 10:00 am at St. Joseph-Olney)

## **Governance**

- Communications-Web page: 90-Day Report (Nov 18th - Feb 15th)

### St. Joseph-Olney Church

- 932 users (up 12.2% from previous 90 days)
- 1,900 sessions
- 1min. 24sec. average time spent on website
- Most Popular web pages: Home, Bulletins, Mass Times, Calendar
- Most Popular time: Saturday 3pm and Sunday 7am
- 43.4% desktop users, 38.7% mobile phone users, 17.9% tablet users

### St. Joseph-Stringtown Church

- 226 users (up 33.7% from previous 90 days)
- 507 sessions
- 1min. 12sec. average time spent on website

- Most Popular web pages: Home, Bulletins, Mass Times, Bulletin Archive
- Most Popular time: Friday 1pm and Saturday 11am & 1pm
- 60.2% desktop users, 26.6% mobile phone users, 13.2% tablet users

#### Holy Cross Church Wendelin

- 647 users (up 23.7% from previous 90 days)
- 1,500 sessions
- 1min. 35sec. average time spent on website
- Most Popular webpages: Home, Bulletins, Calendar, Mass Times
- Most Popular time: Sunday 8am & 9am
- 51.4% desktop users, 31.2% mobile phone users, 17.4% tablet users

#### St. Joseph School - Olney

- 711 users (down 4.6% from previous 90 days, this most likely is the result of Christmas break)
- 1,100 sessions
- 1min. 41 sec. average time spent on website
- Most Popular webpages: Home, Calendar, Staff, Basketball
- Most Popular time: Tuesday 10am & Wednesday 1pm
- 50% desktop users, 40.1% mobile phone users, 9.9% tablet users

- Diocese of Belleville, Illinois Cohorts

Discussion was held around the services offered by an organization called Parish Success Group. Father Mark attended a meeting to hear about joining a cohort of parishes in the process of reorganization. The commitment would include six sessions and would assist parish partnerships through the processes and decision making necessary for success. Each session would cost \$750. Fr. Mark Stec has kept our Parishes up-to-date and our Partnership is already working to make changes. Our Partnership will not participate in the upcoming cohort.

#### Faith Formation

- School Age- Current attendance: 27 PSR students at St. Joseph's Stringtown; 20 PSR at St. Joseph's Olney; 64 at Holy Cross Wendelin
  - Discussion included consideration of the following questions: Are we doing our best? Should we offer both family-based and classroom-based with one site? Integration of Catholic School and PSR?
  - No decisions were made for next year's program.
  - Caroline Trimble will be making rosaries with the Confirmation classes at St. Joseph's Olney.
- High School-
  - Mission Trip
  - Combined Activities-seeing more collaboration and invitations between groups.
  - Possibility of beginning an "open" gym time at St. Joseph's Olney was introduced.
- Adult Formation-Caroline Trimble report:
  - Formed.org-10 people on average are visiting the site daily.
  - "J.O.Y.S."-positive comments received, providing structure for prayer life
  - Parish Mission-September 15-19, 2018; Fr. Jim Sichko will lead the week
  - Another Michael Mette Concert-Councils recommended August 11 or 12 if he is available and would provide a "back to school" celebration.

- Lenten Adult Faith Formation-5:30 on Tuesdays. Each week centers around a different topic.
- Meals for Mom-a form of this is already in place for each Parish. New addition to this service will be Baptism to age 3 Faith Formation packets and ministry.
- St. Meinrad Youth Initiative-Our Partnership was not selected for funding. Caroline will continue to pursue useful resources for this purpose.
- Upcoming Opportunities:
  - Walking in Faith-Tuesdays and Thursdays when weather improves
  - St. Benedict Press: Kingdom of Happiness Study-Wednesday evenings this summer

### **Community Life**

- Common Catholic Activities-Father Mark has been approached about a Parish Directory. This activity will not be pursued at this time.

### **Implementation of the Next Step**

Results of the Bishop and Vicar Forane Meeting on January 22, 2018.

1. What is your weekend schedule? Do you have too many Masses? Which ones could be eliminated or consolidated?
2. How's your hospitality? Is there any form of fellowship in your weekend experience?
3. What preparation goes into the weekend experience?
4. What is our strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for growth

Our Parish Partnership has been tasked with reducing the number of weekend Masses to three (3). Currently, 20 wedding ceremonies are scheduled for 2018, and on average, there are 30-40 funeral masses to provide each year. Masses are in addition to all of the other duties and responsibilities provided by the Priest. Options discussed included the possibility of Caroline Trimble providing funeral services, no longer having the option for Saturday funerals, opening wedding and/or funeral masses on weekends to the public (that would then be the Saturday mass for that Parish), and those trained for Sunday Celebration in the Absence of Priest being trained to offer funeral services. After discussion, the Pastoral Councils decided to informally seek input from each Parish and come back together in April to make a decision.

Parishioners are encouraged to seek out their Pastoral Council members and give opinions before April 23, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Closing Prayer:**

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD  
Diocese of Belleville, Illinois