

## Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:00 pm

### Present:

Fr. Adam  
Sally Donlon  
Pat Kerrigan  
Natale Badillo  
Susan Mitchell  
Rob Cahill  
Tom Stamper

### Absent:

Bill Gerken

### Topics Discussed:

- Revised Donut Sunday Schedule for April and May 2023:  
The new Donut Sunday dates will be **April 16, 2023** and **May 7, 2023**. The dates were revised to accommodate Easter Sunday and Mothers' Day.

Thank you for your continued monetary support and in-person participation with the Donut Sunday gatherings—your contributions are appreciated with making our Donut Sundays a “sweet” success! 😊

We would love to have more volunteers to help with our Donut Sunday gatherings! Please contact the parish office, or reach out to a Pastoral Council member, if you are interested in helping.

- St. Mel Angel Core  
Since the announcement of the “St. Mel Angel Core” (those who are able to help with small tasks in the parish office, decorating the church, helping at parish gatherings, etc.), we have 7 volunteers who have signed up through the parish office. THANK YOU so much for volunteering your time and service!

For those who might be interested in signing up to be part of the St. Mel Angel Core, or to find out more information about it, please feel free to contact the parish office.

- Expanding Outreach to Homebound Parishioners  
Since we now have a larger group of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, we are planning to ask more members of this ministry to extend outreach to homebound parishioners by being available to take Holy Communion and visit with the parishioners on a weekly basis. Discussion and planning are in the works to expand this outreach.

- Reduction of musical (instrument) accompaniment during the Lenten Season:  
Fr. Adam will explore possibilities of utilizing less instruments within Mass during the Lenten season, in order to be more in compliance with Diocesan guidance. The reduction of musical instruments (which may include a sound substitution for the bell ringing during the consecration) will be especially examined for possible changes during Holy Week.

Easter Flower Arrival:

- The Easter flowers will be at St. Mel Church by 10:00 am on Holy Saturday (April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023). Please contact the parish office if you are interested in placing an order for Easter flowers. There are also order forms available now.

➤ Holy Week Schedule 2023:

- Holy Thursday: will be at St. Mel's
- Good Friday: will be at St. Mel's
- Holy Saturday: will be at St. Mark's

➤ May Crowning of the Virgin Mary, May 7<sup>th</sup>

- Will take place after the 10:00 am Mass, before Donut Sunday gathering
- Ceremony is sponsored by the St. Mel Rosary Group
- Ceremony will be approximately 10-15 minutes
- As a reminder, the St. Mel Rosary Group meets weekly, every Wednesday, at 10:00 am. Please feel free to contact the parish office if you would like to find out more information about joining!

➤ Corpus Christi Celebration on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 (the Sunday after the actual date of Thursday, May 8, 2023)

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available between the two Sunday Masses offered on the day of celebration.
- The time after Corpus Christi is designated as “a year of revival” (our Diocesan theme) for parishes within the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.
- More details will follow about Corpus Christi and related events and will be announced in the parish bulletin as they are scheduled.

➤ Discussion of Future Parish Activities

Discussion has begun regarding the restart of parish activities that have been part of St. Mel in the past. What activities would we like to “bring back”? Examples: fish fry, pancake breakfasts, craft fair, spaghetti dinners?

There was also an idea for a “clambake” to be a possible parish activity for this fall (and yes, chicken will also be served as well as clams! 😊). Maybe bringing back fish fry dates for next Lenten season? Let Pastoral Council members know what you think—and what you might be willing to help with!

➤ Changes to Daily Mass Schedule:

Changes to the Daily Mass schedule will likely occur due to future changes in priest availability. Daily Masses will likely be two days/week at St. Mel's, and 2 days/week at St. Mark's. Details will likely be finalized in June, with details to follow in the parish bulletin.

"Think Tank" for Catholic Schools

- The Cleveland Catholic Diocese is generating a "think tank" to think about and plan for the future direction of Catholic elementary school education in the diocese. The areas emphasized are 1) Catholicity, 2) Leadership, 3) Finance, and 4) Academic Excellence.
- There is also more information and description about this initiative in the latest Northeast Ohio Catholic Magazine. We will also share more details within the parish as we know them.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:00 pm.