

Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7:00-8:00 pm

Present:

- ❖ Fr. Adam (Pastor)
- ❖ Bill Gerken (Parish Secretary)
- ❖ Rob Cahill (Chairperson)
- ❖ Pat Kerrigan (Vice-Chairperson)
- ❖ Natale Badillo (Secretary)
- ❖ Sarah Franks (Pastoral Council member)
- ❖ Don Harrington (Pastoral Council member)
- ❖ Carl Orban (Pastoral Council member)

Topics Discussed:

1. Continued Discussion of Bishop Malesic's letter, "A Flourishing Apostolic Church"
2. Guide for running Donut Sunday
3. Potential Changes to Donut Sunday dates
4. Ministry for young families—potential joint venture with St. Mark

➤ Continued Discussion of Bishop Malesic's letter, "A Flourishing Apostolic Church":

- How are we serving others/planning to serve others at St. Mel?

What will be our "church identity" to the community? (Possibly the overarching theme for the parish might be "care of the elderly"?)

- Brainstorming ideas:
 - ✓ Young families 'ministry
 - ✓ Prison ministry visitation
 - ✓ Prison letter writing ministry (pen pal ministry)
 - ✓ Homebound letter writing ministry
 - ✓ Convenient location/times for Mass attendance
 - ✓ Solidifying our reputation for a welcoming parish community—making people feel welcome
 - ✓ Having/forming a "welcoming committee" of St. Mel volunteers
 - ✓ Food Pantry—building/growing the ministry with more volunteers in the future?

- ✓ Delivery/service of Holy Communion by the Eucharistic Ministers (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion) as needed—possibly developing a regular group of people in the future to be part of the ministry (in addition to the Eucharistic Ministers who are already involved)?
- ✓ Service to the elderly (transportation, landscaping, handyperson work, etc.)—possibly partnering with Kamm’s Community Development Corporation; working with local church programs in the area; interfaith/community cooperation?
- ✓ Developing ways to let people know in the community (especially the homebound) about the ministries we have available: how do we encourage people in the parish community to call the parish for assistance? (Examination of the parish census may help with additional information.)

➤ Guide for running Donut Sunday:

- Sarah has put together a guide to help Donut Sunday hosts (thank you, Sarah! 😊)
- After discussion with Fr. Adam and Pastoral Council at this meeting, an announcement will be made in the bulletin to recruit volunteer hosts for Donut Sunday. Pastoral Council members will guide the volunteer hosts, as needed, from the transition of Pastoral Council hosts to parishioner hosts.
- Natale communicated with Teresa regarding the Donut Sunday dates.

The following upcoming Donut Sunday dates from April-August 2025 have been confirmed:

- ✓ April 13th (the St. Mel Fish Fry will be concluded by then)
- ✓ May 11th (this coincides with Mother’s Day)
- ✓ June 8th
- ✓ July 13th
- ✓ August 10th

Upcoming Donut Sunday dates (and anticipated changes in the schedule) will be announced in the Sunday bulletins.

- Ministry for young families—potential joint venture with St. Mark:
 - St. Mark developed a ministry to support young families, where members informally provide mutual support and encouragement to one another. A discussion was initiated at the last joint Pastoral Council meeting (February 2025) to include young families from St. Mel in the young families' ministry.

Next scheduled meeting: May 15th 2025 (moved from second Thursday for this month)