Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

(Joint Pastoral Council meeting—St. Mel and St. Mark)

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, 7:00 pm

Present:

Fr. Adam

Sally Donlon

Pat Kerrigan

Natale Badillo

Susan Mitchell

Rob Cahill

Tom Stamper

Bill Gerken

St. Mark Pastoral Council members

Topics Discussed:

* Music at both parishes:

Lawrence & Julia (musicians) are now directing the music ministry at both parishes, due to Dave’s retirement (previous musician) for health reasons.

As of June 12th, 2023, Julia will take over direction of the music ministry at St. Mark’s and St. Mel’s, while Lawrence will go to direct the music ministry at St. Luke Church (Cleveland).

We are looking for musicians to help with coverage of weekend Masses where needed at both parishes, particularly at St. Mel.

There is also the possibility of implementing a “rotating schedule” with various musicians to cover weekend Masses as needed, particularly at St. Mel.

Fr. Adam is working with Julia to explore different options/possibilities for permanent musicians and/or substitutes at weekend Masses.

* Priest Coverage for Masses

Priest coverage for Masses is limited, due to national shortage; the number of priests entering the priesthood is much smaller in comparison to the number of priests who have retired (or will be retiring) from active ministry.

This may present a future dilemma for St. Mel in two to three years once Fr. Gary retires. At that time, there is a very real possibility that Mass times between the two parishes will need to be adjusted, since there will likely not be another priest to regularly help Fr. Adam with weekend Masses.

Upcoming adjustments to the availability of daily Masses at both parishes will come this summer (June). Details will follow in the parish bulletin.

* Future Possibility with merging (having one joint) Saturday Vigil Mass for both parishes

No firm details have been decided yet about this, but the possibility of having one Saturday Vigil Mass for both parishes is a real possibility due to the future shortage of assistance with Masses. We will have to see what happens, but Fr. Adam wanted to let us all know early, before the shortage crisis, of the reality of what may happen (not enough assistance to cover the Masses as they are with only one regularly scheduled priest).

* Corpus Christi Celebration on June 11th 2023
  + More details will follow about the Corpus Christi celebration and related events. The events will be announced in the parish bulletin once they are scheduled.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: There may be another joint Pastoral Council meeting (with St. Mark Pastoral Council) on Thursday, June 22nd from 7:00-8:00 pm at St. Mark parish. Fr. Adam will let us know closer to the date if the joint Pastoral Council meeting will happen.