

*Worship and Spiritual Life Commission
Saint Christopher Catholic Parish
November 9, 2016
3:00 – 4:20 pm, Fireplace Room – Parish Office
Minutes*

Present: Sue Dahms, Joan Gerhards, Fern Reilly, Cathy Schneider, Fr. William Vernon and JoAnn Wainwright

Minutes: The minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Opening Prayer: The Committee prayed an opening prayer together.

Review of Recent Liturgical Events:

All Soul's Day, Mass of Remembrance: Inviting the families of the departed to the birthday breakfast went very well. The grief support group also attended Mass and the breakfast. There were 12 families of the departed present at Mass. Fr. William proposed for in the future, the Mass for the departed be the 8:00 am Mass and followed by a breakfast reception. The Committee was agreeable to this suggestion. Cathy Schneider suggested improvements for next year's planning, such as slowing down the pace of reading the names a little during Mass, but not to extend the length of the Mass, and to consider a different process for the escort and lighting candles such as using one candle lighter to stand next to the candles, while an escort brings the family to the candle. Members of the Grief Support Team were helpful in assisting with getting the candles to the families after Mass. It was very nice for the newly formed funeral choir to sing at Mass. The afternoon Mass was not well attended. Approximately 25 people attended.

Review of Upcoming Liturgical Events:

Ecumenical Service: Cathy Schneider announced that the time of the Ecumenical Service scheduled for Sunday, November 20 at Salem United Church of Christ was changed from 5:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Advent and Christmas: The Committee decided on dates to decorate for Advent and Christmas. They will decorate for Advent on Saturday, November 26. It was decided to decorate for Christmas on Thursday evening, December 22. Joan will contact and coordinate parishioners to assist with decorating for Christmas.

Workshops and Liturgical Sessions:

Catholic Funerals Workshop Presentation: Cathy Schneider contacted Pat Gorman regarding his availability to present a workshop in November on Catholic Funerals to our parish. Pat Gorman was not available. She will pursue scheduling a workshop with him in the spring.

Liturgical Seasons Presentation: Cathy Schneider still needs to contact Abbott Rooney and check his availability for offering his presentation on Liturgical Seasons as a parish event next spring.

Other Business:

Saint Mother Teresa Mercy Endowment Fund: Fr. William announced the Year of Mercy ends on Sunday, November 20. An endowment fund has been set up to provide financial support for the Spiritual and Corporal works to memorialize the Year of Mercy. Additional information is in the parish bulletin and the Catholic Herald.

Hearing Impaired Devices: It was suggested that devices be available in our church for the hearing impaired to use during Mass. Devices would need to be sanitary and compatible with our existing sound system. Fr. William will inquire with Select Sound about options for impaired hearing devices that would work with our sound system.

Next Liturgy Meeting: The next Liturgy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8 at 3:00 pm in the Fireplace Room.

Closing Prayer: The Committee prayed the closing prayer together.

Submitted by Fern Reilly, Member
Worship and Spiritual Life Commission