

Minutes of Liturgy Committee Meeting
13 January 2015, 6:30 p.m., Friendship Hall

Present: Katherine Christensen (presiding), Ed Forester (ex officio), John Roché (ex officio), Bruce Fraley (guest), Father Michael (ex officio), John Wallhausser, Carol de Rosset (Parish Council liaison).

1. Katherine stated that the two main agenda items were:

I. Lent

II. Sacristans

2. Katherine also mentioned that she was concerned about the makeup of the Liturgy Committee, since it was comprised more of Saturday evening mass-goers now. Ed noted that we need a balance between the Saturday evening mass and both Sunday masses, i.e., the 9:00 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. mass.

3. Father Michael noted that Ann Marie Stuber had been in charge of altar servers for many years, and had decided it was time to step down. Mark Bramlage has agreed to take over this duty. Father Michael said he would invite him to attend the Liturgy Committee meetings.

4. Father Michael expressed gratitude to the Hispanic community for cleaning up the church after mass on Sunday, and putting away all the Christmas decorations. The Hispanic community also decorated the church for Christmas. Katherine mentioned that we need to put some thought into who is responsible for decorating the church/the church environment, etc. More people need to be involved, but there do need to be protocols in terms of what is appropriate.

5. Katherine asked if anyone had comments regarding evaluation of this year's Advent and Christmas liturgies. Most reactions were positive, but it was noted that:

a. The Advent wreath candles should be much larger next year.

b. There needs to be consistency in terms of how the Advent wreath candles are lit after the first time.

c. Father Michael asked that during seasons when there are many flowers or other objects in front of the altar, if lectors could take the Gospel book around to the back of the altar and lay it flat on the altar rather than having to reach across the candles and flowers to the book stand in front of the altar. Everyone agreed that this was feasible, and a good idea. Katherine suggested that we start this practice during Lent to get the lectors accustomed to it.

d. We could look into using an evaluation form or tool of some kind for parishioners' responses to how the Advent and Christmas masses went. Perhaps Karen Rood has such an instrument.

e. Father Michael said he thought the homily on the image from the St. John's Bible had gone well, and wondered if it might be a good idea to have a copy on display and do a homily connected with it periodically.

f. John Roché mentioned that Advent is divided into two parts: the Second Coming of Jesus, and Jesus's birth to Mary. He noted that the first part is hardly ever emphasized and wondered if there was a way we could do that better. Katherine mentioned that Epiphany is perhaps not celebrated as festively as it could be.

g. It was noted that the parish could do a better job of publicizing the various liturgies and programs happening during Advent and Christmas.

h. Ann Marie Stuber has been in charge of the Christmas pageant for several years now. Someone else needs to step up and do this. John Roché mentioned getting either a parent or teacher to do it.

i. Bruce noted that there were no sign-ups for Advent and Christmas this year. We need to be sure there is consistent practice in terms of providing sign-up sheets for special masses.

6. John Wallhausser mentioned that he would find an overall picture of the Liturgy Committee and its work helpful, since often in meetings we seem to focus on details, and it is hard to get the big picture. Katherine suggested the General Introduction to the Roman Missal. Father Michael mentioned that for the past couple of years there have been Liturgy Committee Retreats, and it would be a good idea to read something like the General Introduction to the Roman Missal in preparation for that. John Roché suggested that we get an outside speaker to come for the Liturgy Retreat this year, someone like Karen Rood.

7. Father Michael said he would like to relocate the confessional and suggested that the Liturgy Committee discuss it at the next meeting.

8. Katherine asked what needed to be done in preparation for Lent.

-Bruce said that everyone needed to bring their palms back.

-John Roché said that there should be a palm burning.

-It was suggested that we do the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, with different individuals/groups leading each time.

-We need to talk about Fish Fries.

-We need to be sure all activities are publicized.

-We need to talk about the special Lenten offering and what to do with it this year.

9. Tentative dates:

Confirmation: Feb. 15

Chrism Mas: Mar. 28

Penance Service: Mar. 26 (7:00 p.m.)

10. Katherine pointed out that with Myong's departure, there are not enough sacristans. On Saturday nights, Katherine is sacristan, and Diane Zekind can also perform this function. At the Sunday 9:00 a.m. mass, Bruce Fraley and Lynn Feltner serve as sacristans. It would be helpful to have one or two more. Bruce said he thought that having three or four on a rotating basis would be good. Father Michael suggested Tom Karisienski.

11. Ed mentioned that he needs to know the dates when a visiting priest will be here as far in advance as possible. Fr. Michael stated that on July 11-12 and on July 18-19, Father John Rausch will be here. There will also be a visiting priest on March 28 (and perhaps March 29).

The next meeting of the Liturgy Committee will be held on February 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Agenda items:

- moving the confessional
- Lent/Holy Week
- Confirmation

After everyone prayed the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned, at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol de Rosset.