

Our Lady of the Pines Church

Minutes of the Liturgy Committee meeting: May 23, 2021

Meeting Attendance:

Present: Father Tony Fernando, Margo Bernardy, Anna Hudson

Absent: Maureen Waltman, Kay Marcussen, Mary Schiebe

- Father Tony reported that Mary Schiebe moved to Elbow Lake and is unable to attend regular meetings.

Prayer: Father Tony led the members in a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Evaluation of Liturgical Celebrations: November 2020 – May 2021

- Advent and Christmas Liturgies: Due to the pandemic safety protocols, attendance was lighter. The services went smoothly, as we follow our proven processes. No need for changes at this time.
- First Reconciliation: We are concerned that the children are not fully prepared to receive this sacrament. The classes were scheduled before our Sunday Mass so the children and their parents would attend Mass. Unfortunately some parents are taking out the children without their participation in the Mass. A suggestion was made that the children see a mock confession. A big challenge is finding time when parents, children and Father are available.
- First Holy Communion: We are concerned that more emphasis is being placed on the performance at the liturgy rather than spiritual experience of the sacrament. It is difficult to schedule the rehearsals. He schedules the rehearsals close to the day, but the children have challenges remembering and they are distracted.
 - Art and Environment: Father Tony stated the flowers be more colorful. Also, the flowers for Confirmation do not need to be red.
- Weekly Liturgies with Music: Ardis Johnson started playing the keyboard and cantors have been leading the assembly in singing. They are selecting hymns that align with the readings. This takes a little longer but there is no indication that anyone minds. Ardis is available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Summer residents may also volunteer. Liturgical aspects as weekday singing is different than weekend singing. For weekdays:
 - Do not sing the Gloria
 - Gospel Alleluia: Sing the Gospel Acclamation of the day
 - Holy, Holy, Holy is sung
 - Memorial Acclamation is sung
 - Singing the Lamb of God is optional

“Reunite in Christ”: A program for Welcoming people back to the Church

- Diocese of Crookston Covid-19 Safety Protocol: The diocese published updated guidelines which are effective on Friday, May 28, 2021. Since many visitors attend Mass at OLP, they may not be aware of the Minnesota safety guidelines. The Committee decided to implement these guideline practices and protocols, with a review to take place in July:
 - No capacity limits. However, congregants may choose to employ physical distancing.
 - No enforcement of mask wearing.
 - Maintain a regular schedule of sanitation and hand sanitizer available at entryways.
 - Holy water will be placed in the Baptismal font and stoups. Holy water will be replaced on Tuesday’s and Friday’s.
 - Singing remains permissible. Hymnals and worship aids may be placed in pews.
 - Collection baskets may be passed person-to-person.
 - Physical touch at the Sign of Peace is permissible. People will do what they feel comfortable doing.

- Holy Communion may be distributed in both species. We will distribute just the consecrated hosts for now and will revisit after July to determine if we will return to distributing the Blood of Christ. We will resume the former practice of people processing to the Eucharistic Ministers (instead of the ministers going pew to pew).
- Altar Servers: Father Tony will communicate with the parents to determine their comfort level in having the siblings serving together
- It is permissible to have all other Liturgical Ministers serve at Masses.
- If the Diocesan “Reunite in Christ” Task Force communicates adjustments to these guidelines, Father Tony will share them with the Liturgy Committee.

Planning for Summer Liturgies

- Art & Environment: Anna reported that the environment will be updated about once a month during the summer. Special flower arrangements will be purchased for the weekends of Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Parish Day.
- Memorial Day Mass at Woodlawn Cemetery: Mass is scheduled to be held at the cemetery on Monday, May 31st, at 9:00 am. If there is inclement weather, Mass will be held at the church. In the case of rain, a communication will be sent electronically to parishioners to know the location.
- Holiday weekends (Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day): Father Tony described the chair arrangements in the Fellowship hall for these weekends. He will work with Bob DeCrans to set out the chairs. There will be no tables for these weekends.
- Parish Day, September 12: Special altar arrangements for this day. The Hospitality Committee will determine what, if any, food will be served.
- Confirmation, October 17: Liturgy Committee is not impacted. Don Hudson will manage the music and whether there will be a choir.

Others:

- All Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors commissions have expired. Training for both ministries will be held in June and July.
 - Eucharistic Ministers: after the Mass on Sunday, June 13 and Saturday, July 10
 - Lectors: after the Mass on Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, July 11
- Visitor Concerns on Utility of Church Space: Father Tony received anonymous communications on the concerns they have. This discussion was postponed to the future when more members of the Committee are present.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 11:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Hudson