

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/ACTIONS
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2016**

There was no new or old business.

Organization Reports

The progress reports for students in PSR Grades 3-8 were sent home in January, listing the curriculum subjects studied with informal assessments of the child's progress. The Confirmation Retreat for candidates and sponsors on March 12 includes a parent meeting as well as a Reconciliation Service; all will attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass together. There are two retreats for children who will make their First Holy Communion: one on Wednesday, April 27, and the other on Saturday, April 30, at which practice will be held and children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. First Communion Mass is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, 2:00 p.m. Parent Baptism classes are scheduled for Sundays, March 6 and April 10. Sessions for school-age children needing the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and/or Eucharist have concluded.

Close to 550 people from throughout the Diocese attended Bosco Bash, the middle-school rally, held at St. Cecilia Church on January 31. The \$326 collected at the Mass was given to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. The EDGE middle-school group will participate in the Athletic Association-sponsored dance on February 13; students from St. Mary Magdalene, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and Trinity have been invited to attend. The regular Edge night will follow the 5:00 p.m. Mass on February 20.

The next Parents Night Out is scheduled for February 5. This program is going well, with an average of 48 children attending each month.

The high school Life Teen group has teamed up with the Ronald McDonald House to provide service-hour opportunities for students: On February 13, the students will make fleece blankets for the children staying there and deliver them on March 6. They will remain there for the afternoon to bake cookies, brownies, and cupcakes for the families.

The 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal will "kick off" in March.

The next issue of *News from the Pews* will be mailed in time to reach homes before Ash Wednesday and issued quarterly in the future (in February, May, August, and November). A fifth issue can be published if needed. The Sunday bulletin will also have a "new look." The Communications Committee will discuss formats, content, etc. The parish website revision is underway. There has been good feedback on the parish email submissions. Material from parishioners will be sought (e.g., awards, accomplishments, photos) for all these means of communication. PDF versions of the bulletin and newsletter as well as folder management for the emails and a parish subscription to FORMED.ORG which provides links to sites of information of interest to Catholics could be considered. The summary of discussions/actions at Parish Pastoral Council meetings could be sent via email as well as posted on the website.

There were 28 in attendance at the last meeting at the prison; usually, 15 or 18 attend.

The Knights of Columbus will hold the next Blood Drive in March (41 pints of blood were donated on January 7). There was a larger-than-usual crowd at the free throw on January 23 as well as at the Breakfast to Support Seminarians on January 31. Lenten Fish Fries are coming up.

The Bishop has asked Deanery Councils to be more involved in reporting to him what is happening in parishes. The "Bishop's Homework" included providing more feedback on the Sunday sports issue and suggestions on topics for his "talks" throughout the Diocese. The Lenten activities from the various parishes in the West Deanery were shared at its meeting. In compliance with Pope Francis' request that every diocese celebrate 24 hours with the Lord, the West Deanery will hold it at St. Cecilia on March 4 and 5; this will replace the Lenten Penance Service this year.

The parish Social Committee will sponsor breakfast after the 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Masses on February 7; the food will be available in the Gathering Space and can be consumed in the St. Cecilia Room.

Basketball season is in its final regular season week and playoff brackets will be out soon. Spring sports sign-ups have begun; coaches and commissioners will be needed for baseball, softball, and track. The Western Irish Football board meeting will be held in February. St. Cecilia will hold its second annual Men's Adult Basketball Game on February 27; all proceeds will go to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. The Athletic Association will sponsor the Athletic Dance on February 13 for children in Grades 6, 7, and 8 from St. Cecilia, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and St. Mary Magdalene schools and PSRs.

Pastor's Comments

The Faith Life Committee would like to hold a Parish Mission in September. Alpha is going wonderfully.

Stations of the Cross will be installed in the main worship space and the hymn boards will be relocated.

Three young people will be baptized at the Easter Vigil by the pouring of water rather than immersion. No one baptized in another Christian tradition will be making the Profession of Faith and one uncatechized Catholic will participate in the ceremony conducted by Bishop Campbell. One baby will be baptized at the 12:00 noon Mass on February 7.

Father is considering having bingo volunteers assigned to shifts (e.g., 5:00-7:00 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m.) rather than one group working all evening.

On Ash Wednesday, there will be Liturgies of the Word with Distribution of Ashes at 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. as well as Masses at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Throats will be available after the Masses on February 6 and 7.

The number of activities in the Gathering Space after Masses needs to be reviewed with attention to scheduling.

Follow-ups to Alpha and That Man Is You should be planned.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be Wednesday, **March 2, 2016**, in Meeting Room A.