

Minutes Liturgy & Faith Formation Committee

December 7, 2023 6:00 PM

Members Present: Underlined

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| <u>Greg Hansen</u> , Server Coordinator 23-25 | <u>Bob & Alice Mayers</u> , EMHC Coordinator, 23-25 |
| <u>Tess Koltes</u> , Chairperson | <u>Julie Ortloff</u> , Business Manager |
| <u>Scott Wallner</u> , Lector Coordinator 23-25 | <u>Dan Ortloff</u> , Sacristan Coordinator, 23-25 |
| <u>Brian Eisenschenk</u> , Usher Coordinator, 23-25 | <u>Other Members: Ben Pflueger, Patty Dumonceaux</u> |
| FF Coordinator: Tess Koltes | |
| Other members: <u>Trevor Johannes and Anthony Heroux</u> | |
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Old Business:

1. Mass of Remembrance: went well. Suggestions for improvement: **Always have an extended social afterward for visiting families—Adult Enrichment begins later**
2. Fleece Blankets: Went well. 30 blankets; **Need more scissors next year for prepping the blankets**; Knights of Columbus donated money to buy the fleece
3. Breaking Bread: Caroline Linz heading it up with Dottie and Gene Eisenschenk; there will be 2 in 2024—February 25 and March 10; Parish life will do the final meal in April **Goal: To do about 4-5 each year**

New Business:

- 1.
2. Advent: Having Confirmation students light candles each Sunday and a student from various grades reading about the new Advent candle. **The candle meaning was read after the Introductory Rite.**
 - a. December 3: Grade 7-8 student and a Confirmation student
 - b. December 10: Grade 5-6 and a Confirmation student
 - c. December 17: Grade 3-4 and a Confirmation student
 - d. December 24: Grade 2 and a Confirmation student
3. Christmas Pageant: On hold for now; looking at new ideas—on hold for now—**maybe do a living stations of the cross or a Christmas play or Reader's Theater for an Adult Enrichment**
4. Reconciliation: December 16, 1:00PM: Program is done and shared with Fr. Brad and Julie; **Day went well; have a music person available to sing opening, psalm, Alleluia, and closing; see program; get a lector to read the first and second reading; have a FF read the Examination of Conscience; People may leave once they have done their penance**
5. Christmas Eve: Signing up for ministries and ushering; **Another Suggestion—Gift Faith Formation teaches with Knights of Columbus breakfasts for their families—donation or purchase?**

6. Epiphany: Need Three Kings—Confirmation students to costume up for the Gospel and walk into mass
Did not do this year—canceled December 17th FF due to Covid outbreak
7. Suggestion of involving children in liturgy: serving, ushering, greeting, petitions,
Do you think students would feel comfortable saying the petitions? Mass parts assigned for grade
%—readers, petitions, ushers, greeters,
8. Forming a small group of children to sing on class mass Sundays—on hold for now until Tess retires
from full time job
9. Suggestion of older students—grades 9-10-11-12 already completed a field trip to the reliquary and saint
chapels at the Abbey Church; Fr, Brad will visit with the Confirmation students on December 17 (didn't
happen—Covid) to meet with them;
 - a. Perhaps a trip to the St. John's Bible—not sure if it is open on Sunday mornings??
 - b. Tour of Liturgical Press
 - c. Tour of new Wood Shop
 - d. A tour of Fr. Jerome Tupa's art work
 - e. Assist with caramel roll making
 - f. Have their own family to donate to for Advent
 - g. Lenten collection for certain items—create a list of what the local Food Shelf needs
 - h. Sponsoring a family from India—each class could have their own separate family—have Dave
and Kathy Rennie from We Share come and give a talk
 - i. Table at the Craft Sale: create crafts to sell, sell Knights of Columbus cards, tie blankets, each
class create a craft or two to sell, donated money goes to send students to bag rice protein bags
for Kids Against Hunger in Sauk Rapids
 - j. Mission trip to another country—talk to Maureen Frame at SJP, Spanish teacher, she is
chaperoning a trip next year, problem—who would be responsible for the liability??
10. Adult Sessions: Only getting 15-20 people to stay. Suggestions on how to promote and get better
attendance; flyer in St; Joe bulletin on Sundays—need to get to St. Joe to stuff the
bulletins—Confirmation hours??
11. Lenten Bible study on Faith Formation Sundays—will be hosted by Tess—3 topics;
12. Suggestions for upcoming sessions or events
Email received from Julianne Heller for ideas for Adult Enrichment:

As for dynamic speakers - hmmm . . . I know plenty of folks in the DOT and the SOT - the issue is always how busy all of them are! One option might be to ask some of the folks who have retired recently or who are semi-retired? Not sure if they go south for part or all of the winter, but it would be worth asking at least. Kathleen Cahalin is great - she taught pastoral theology and (logically!) worked a lot with grad students who were going to go out and work in parishes. Sr. Ephram Hollermann is perhaps less "dynamic" (i.e., maybe not as *energetic* a speaker?), but she is a real gem, and has done some very interesting work in local church history - folks who are from the area would enjoy hearing about her research (she could also do some nice stuff on Benedictine values, I'm sure!). Vincent Smiles is excellent and could do a number of different things - anything related to NT scripture, but also contemporary

issues like how science and faith are compatible, or how one can disagree with a teaching of the Catholic church and still remain a faithful Catholic. John Merkle has done a lot with interfaith dialogue - especially the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. He also has done many classes on what is

God/the problem of God/questions about God. His presentations might be a little more on the academic side? Jeff Kaster is absolutely wonderful - very accessible, very down-to-earth, tells good stories. He taught a lot of the undergraduate classes on how to do youth ministry, work in a parish, etc. He could talk on many different topics, including anything related to Lent. Martin Connell is a retired liturgy prof - he is also very personable and very passionate about what he teaches! He lives in the Cities now, so might not be interested in coming up here, but on the other hand, he does still have friends in the area, so who knows - maybe he'd be up for it?

I'll list emails below - let me know if you have any follow-up questions!

Blessings,
Juliann

jmerkle@csbsju.edu

jkaster@csbsju.edu

kcahalan@csbsju.edu

ehollermann@csbsju.edu

vsmiles@csbsju.edu

mconnell@csbsju.edu