

**Saint John the Baptist
Faith Formation Commission
NOVEMBER 2016 Minutes
Room St. Joseph's Hall**

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|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Date: | November 15, 2016 | Chair | Stephanie Waite | Staff Liaison | Jessica Balzarini |
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| Member/Attendee | Present | Member/Attendee | Present |
|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Jessica B (Staff Liaison) | X | Jackie S. | X |
| Leslie B. | | Michelle Scherer | X |
| Mary K (Staff) | X | Michelle Stori | X |
| Mary Beth L. | X | Tom P. | X |
| Joni M. | X | Stephanie Waite (Chair) | X |
| Cheryl P. | X | Jodie W. (recorder) | X |
| | | Sue Reinarts – PLC Guest | X |

Minutes

- I. Dinner 5:30 pm
- II. Prayer 6:05 pm – 6:30 pm
- III. Meeting 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Opening Prayer -Joni M

GOSPEL [LK 23:35-43](#)

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Mission & Focus Statements – All Members

Minutes from October 18, 2016 meeting approved.

Agenda Items:

1. Program Reports
 - a. Ministry Leaders:
 - i. Faith Formation Coordinator, Mary Kohlhaas joined us for a live update on faith formation programs .
 1. Noted 2016-17 has currently 57 families registered for faith formation.
 2. Course content examples were reviewed.
 3. Numbers: 10 in 1st grade; 15 in 2nd grade; 14 in 3rd grade; 10 in 4th grade; 12 in 5th grade; 13 in 6th grade; 57 families
 4. Have 2 catechists in each class for most part.

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5. FF meets once per month here at church; parents teach the next 3 lessons at home with children
6. Schedule of faith formation evening class: We encourage families to attend 5:30 PM Mass, come to dinner at 6 PM, then we begin at 6:30 PM with everyone in St. Joseph's Hall then catechists take children to classrooms for instruction while parents receive instruction in St. Joseph Hall.
7. Prep for the evening – the packets are the biggest preparation for the evening. We print them in house and Jodie has this piece but could use help. It is time consuming and needs to be completed twice per month– once for the Classroom Lesson for the Catechists and once for the Parent Home Lessons.
 - a. If you know anyone who could help out, we would LOVE it! It involves time – to print on the correct paper and color and then to collate correctly into the packets.
 - b. Tom P asked the question “how do you know parents are doing this?” Mary stated “Currently we don't and we are assuming 1/3 always does them, 1/3 sometimes does them, and 1/3 never do them. We need to build the report with families and hopefully the program will grow as parents understand the formation principles.”
8. Catechist Training occurs once per month – usually 2 weeks before Family Formation night. Typically, the group meets Wednesday evening to pray together, and review the classroom lesson.
9. Children's Liturgy of the Word – Occurs 10:30 mass for children grades 1-4. This year we have two substitute teachers for Mary Kohlhaas. This is wonderful as liturgy goes through the summer months as well.
10. RCIC – Rite of Christian Initiation of Children – catching children up on sacraments. – We currently have zero enrolled this year.
11. Journey to the Inn – 2016 Advent Family Event. Draws from Hispanic tradition of Los Posadas. This event takes place Wednesday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m. with dinner, prayer in church, journey to houses around neighborhood and back following in path Mary and Joseph looking for shelter. We will be led by Children's choir.
 - a. Request for Help with Dinner, Serving, Cleaning and walking with the group.
 - i. Joni and Mary Beth will provide dinner assistance.
12. See handouts.

2. Written Reports:

- i. Office of Discipleship and Mission programs (ODM) – Jessica
- Butter braids:
 - We sold \$3,024.00 in Butter braids
 - There were 127 with an average of 3.31 braids sold per person (we know some only sold one and one family sold \$400.00 so lots of variety)
 - We took home \$2016.00 profit from the fundraiser

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- Distribution went smoothly – thank you for your help
- All Saints Party:
 - Live Report by Mary Kohlhaas
- Youth Ministry:
 - 1st Middle School Youth Ministry night went great. The group was small due to sporting events that evening.
 - There is a pretty consistent group coming that also attended Extreme Faith Camp
- Senior High Youth Group:
 - Peer Ministry has really stepped up to the to fill the needs of our retreat and small group leader responsibilities
- Confirmation – new this year:

Retreats:

 - 8th grade Year 1 had their combined retreat (parish and school teens together) for the 1st time. It was put into the program in order to have the teens bond and have a common experience before we place them together in 9th grade Sunday night Year 2 Confirmation. It was great to see the group of 50 sitting at 4:30 pm mass on Saturday evening. 45 teens participated.
 - 9th Grade Year 2 went to the Arc Retreat Center in Osceola, WI this past weekend. Father Paul Shovelain spent the entire weekend with the kids onsite, allowing for daily mass and many confession times for everyone to participate in. 45 participants attended.
 - Since the 5:30 pm Ignite Mass is part of the Confirmation session, attendance has gone up and more teens have been in attendance.
- Alpha for Catholics:
 - Holy Spirit Weekend will happen this weekend. Please pray for us.
 - 4 participants from previous groups will be attending with the current group. We should have about 5 25 total.
- Online Registration:
 - Update: We have met and worked out the data problem. We can now download registration information into an Xcel spreadsheet.
 - We will also be receiving additional training in January. This will hopefully open up a better line of communication and reduce issues in the spring.
- RCIA

The *Rite of Acceptance* is rescheduled for *Sunday, December 11th*.

3. Calendar of Events:

- Events:
 - **Alpha Holy Spirit Day Retreat**
 - **Saturday, November 19th 9-8 pm**
 - Will attend the 4:30 pm Mass

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- Time for prayer for a stirring up of the Holy Spirit and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 - **All Parish Family Advent Event *Journey to the Inn***
 - ***Wednesday, November 30th beginning with Dinner at 6p m***
 - **ACTION:** Looking for help with dinner
 - **ACTION:** Looking for bible characters to lead the times of scripture reading
 - **ACTION:** Looking for people to join the procession
 - **ACTION:** Looking for set up and clean up help
 - **1st Reconciliation Retreat**
 - ***Sunday, December 4th 2-5p m***
 - **ACTION:** Need helpers in the teaching stations
 - Michelle Stori – Child Care
 - Cheryl and Stephanie – checking schedules for availability
 - **All Parish Advent Adoration Night – an Hour of Power**
 - ***Wednesday, December 7th at 8 pm***
 - Come and learn a new form of prayer: Praise and Worship
 - Hear a dynamic talk
 - Adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament
 - **1st Reconciliation**
 - ***Saturday, December 10th 9-11 am***
- i. Review events:
1. All Saints Party Recap -
 - a. We had around 200 children come through the All Saints Party this year. Around 20? Ministries had tables for the trick or treat portion of the night.
 - b. The 8th graders from school sold pizza as a fundraiser for their DC trip.
 - c. PTO handled the crafts along with planning with us.
 - d. The firetruck came to keep people busy as we began outside the gym doors in the parking lot. We also had a photo booth set up outside for families' use.
 - e. Fr. Paul started us with prayer and then sent everyone in for trick or treating.
 - f. Faith Formation covered the games and prizes.
 - g. Question was asked "How to improve the All Saints Party?"
 - i. *Feedback:* Space for games was tight. Some games were not noticed enough to be used.
 - ii. *Feedback:* Avoid Families Moving Forward weeks – we need the space. 2017 is not scheduled for the same week.
 - iii. *Feedback:* Where to start & direction of flow mapped out. Congestion
 - iv. *Feedback:* Option to buy a whole pizza
 2. Recap Fall Formation Day by Stephanie and Jackie

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3. Online Registration and delays update – Staff started preparing for 2017 registration.

a. Question – “Was online registration helpful?” Jessica responded “yes”.

ii. **ACTION:** Areas of help needed

- Alpha Holy Spirit Day – November 19th
- Family Advent Event – November 30

a. Ongoing goals for this year:

1. Baptism Preparation Ideas was tabled and will revisit in January 2017/
2. Each member brought forth an idea on question from October Meeting “how to reach out to families not registered in parish programming: school or faith formation?”. Discussion followed:
 - i. Reaching out...
 - ii. Reaching out...
3. Policy Handbook - tabled
4. No additional items discussed.

b. Jessica brought two proposals for the following

- i. Move Bulletin Board in the hallway upstairs to a more visible place
- ii. Replacement of carpeting in youth room

ACTION: The Board unanimously agreed to pass on both proposals. Unanimously agreed that ODM should not have to use “youth 365” money to replace youth room carpet.

➤ PLC Meeting - Sue Reinarts, Michelle Stori and Jessica Balzarini left at 7:25 for the PLC meeting.

a. Old Business:

1. Baptism Prep gift bag -Each Member to bring at least 1 idea
 - i. Ideas – *Homemade card*
 - ii. Ideas – *Christmas Ornament with Baptism date*
 - iii. Ideas – *Picture Frame*
 - iv. Ideas – *Prayer Box/Jug – After Baptismal party all drop a prayer into time capsule*
 - v. Ideas – *Take a photo*
 - vi. Ideas – *Bibs/Blankets*
 - vii. Ideas – *Certificate in frame*
 - viii. Ideas -*Parent pack-prayers, music, church & school & faith formation info*
 - ix. Ideas – *Have a yearly celebration/Blessing for all those Baptized in the year*
 - x. Ideas – *Baby's first Bible*

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2. Communication – Tabled for next time

- Prayer Assignment – Opening Prayer - Jackie
 - a. Next Meeting, December 13, 2016 (we begin with Mass at 5:30 pm please make every effort to join us)

- Closing Prayer: Stephanie

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

2016-2017 meeting dates:

~~Aug 30, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15~~, Dec 13, Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 14, Apr 18, May 16, Jun 6