

Saint John the Baptist - Worship Commission

April 18, 2017 Minutes

Date:	April 18, 2017	Time:	6:30 pm
Chair:	Jill	Location:	St. John's
Recorder:	Bonnie	PLC Rep:	Pat

Member/Attendee	Present	Member	Present	Member	Present	Member	Present
Barb		Pat	x	Corey	x	Cary	x
Mary Ann	x	Jill	x	Rose Ann	x	Mary H	x
Staff Representative:		Jay					
Guest(s) & Purpose:							

- Cary and Barb have agreed to renew their commitment and return for another 3 years. Corey is looking for an usher for his replacement. If one is not found, he will continue. Jill has asked for those interested to be chair next year to please step forward.
- The Worship Commission thanks Jay for all his hard work in the beautiful Holy Week liturgies!
- **Father's request for a few commissions, Worship Commission included, to come up with a case statement to grow and promote the endowments held by our parish and school, and perhaps to add new endowments. Please see Jill's email for a more complete list. We divided the needs into two categories. 1) Physical projects and 2) Programs to advance and enhance Worship.**

1) **Physical Projects.**

- a. Finish lighting project
- b. Sound System –
 - i. The current sound system is giving out and needs to be replaced with one of more modern technology that can finally help solve our problems with hearing both the sung and spoken word.
 - ii. Hearing Loop. This has received good reviews during the demos and would be a wonderful way to keep, and to bring in (or back), parishioners who struggle with participation in the Mass due to poor hearing. How wonderful for them to be able to adequately hear the readings, homily, Eucharistic Prayer and more.
- c. Restore pews/kneelers/floors – The pews, kneelers and floors have not had substantial renewal since they were installed 50 years ago. They are showing their age.
- d. Ceiling – The unsightly ceiling needs to be addressed to improve both the visual effect as well as the sound for the spoken word as well as the music. Ceiling debris and dust appears to float down and land in the organ pipes and piano, too.
- e. Choir/Music Area Renovation including a new piano – The Choir/Music area does not meet the needs of the various groups. The pews do not have kneelers as the risers are spaced such that they will not fit. We'd like a space where each group (Adult Choir, Contemporary Group, Ignite, Bells, Youth Choir) can use the space on its own or join with another group and still be able to move. Examples: Contemporary Group with the Bell Choir.
- f. Organ – lifecycle maintenance/cleaning. It's been a number of years since the organ was cleaned. (see Ceiling bullet above)
- g. Welcoming and including parents with young children by providing a cry room, or other means for them to participate in Mass that is less stressful for them and less disruptive to others.

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- h. Welcoming and including many levels of disability – from those who are ambulatory to those in wheelchairs. The space we reserve today at the back of the main sections of the pews is not enough, nor is the space as efficient as it could be.

2) Programs to advance and enhance Worship

- a. Funding for payment of cantors and instrumentalists – ideally for all Masses each weekend but in particular for holidays.
 - b. Availability of attending seminars and conferences for music, safety and worship - either bringing someone in to conduct a workshop here at St John's (which would provide for a wider participation) or to pay for fees or tuition for volunteers or staff.
 - c. Fiscal support for broad continuing music programs (e.g. Children's Choir, Handbell Choir, Youth) to enhance and increase participation of all age levels.
 - d. Create a Communication/ Service Director position:
 - i. This would be someone who is trained in security and safety and would be available (on site) during worship times or times of large gatherings.
 - ii. Coordinate Life Safety
 - 1. How to handle suspicious behavior (what is it, when do authorities need to be called)
 - 2. People in distress – Who responds, what response is needed and how.
 - 3. Fire or Tornado evacuations
 - 4. Staff Presence during times of worship and other large gatherings. This ensures that someone is there who knows the proper procedures.
 - iii. Coordinate Greeters to create a welcoming environment;
 - 1. Starting in the parking lot – helping handicapped into the building.
 - 2. Doors to the church – for example, Fr. Paul and one of the ushers simply held the exterior doors open and greeted people coming to Easter Sunday Mass.
 - 3. Visible and available to help guests and parishioners.
 - iv. Coordinate Communication
 - 1. In real time as situations occur
 - 2. Identify who needs to know what and when
 - a. Communicate policies, procedures and changes to the appropriate groups, volunteer or staff.
- **Continue discussion on investigating options for safety training.**
 - RoseAnn put together a list of topics and questions.
 - It was suggested to set up a meeting with New Brighton Police Dept. to discuss the topics and questions.
 - **Good (Worship) Question**
 - Jill purchased several books from St. Patrick's Guild to get us started. She will print up a couple questions with answers to be checked over by Jay and then the worship commission before being published in the bulletin.