

Saint John the Baptist - Worship Commission

February 12, 2019 – Minutes

Date:	February 12, 2019	Time:	6:35 pm
Chair:	Pat	Location:	Saint John's
Recorder:	Bonnie	PLC Rep:	TBD

Member/Attendee	Present	Member	Present	Member	Present	Member	Present
Barb	X	Pat	X	Corey	X	Cary	A
Mary Ann	X					Mary H	X
Michael	X						
Staff Representative:	Jay						
Guest(s) & Purpose:							

Old Business

PLC report - Please see the website for the current PLC minutes.

Recruit two new members - Possible members will be invited to attend a meeting.

50th Anniversary of the New Church Edifice update Fr. Joncas gave the first presentation in the speaker series on Sunday, January 20th at 1pm in the Church. Vatican II: Its effect on in the Architecture of the Church. On March 3rd, Nick Markell will speak on the past 50 years of liturgical art. Relevant Radio will be promoting Nick's event with 30 second spots. Pat will look into finding out when the spots will be aired.

Committee is working on getting Archbishop Hebda to do a congratulatory and invitation video. Triduum will be promoted on Relevant Radio. Coming Events: 50 Year Club Spring Event - May 7th, Golf Event, Oral Histories (working with the school on these), Pictorial Book (on track), Time Capsule (in progress), Closing Mass and Festival Dinner is scheduled for June 22nd.

Training for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers update - Usher/Greeter training and dinner will be on March 2 after the 4:30pm Mass.

Choir seating: Looking at the possibility of reconfiguring the seating area for the choir. The space is a challenge. Jay will work with Jim O'Brien, parishioner and architect, to rework the space. Commission would follow the process but would like to get an idea of what the project may cost. Please see attached information.

New Business

THE QUESTION: "How have we done at St. John's and what more should we do at our parish to respond to the recent crisis in the Catholic Church?" was discussed.

- 1) Respond quickly. Be transparent. This needs to be done from the pulpit
- 2) Raise awareness of the good St. John's does day in and day out.

Cleaning the pews in the church. This information will be forwarded to maintenance.

Use the monitors/signs to display Please remove caps, silence your cell phones, etc. Bring ideas for what to display, if anything, to the next meeting.

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Worship Commission Goals for 2018-2019

Enhance and Grow Adult and Children's Choirs

Brainstorm ideas to attract new voices for the adult choir

What needs to be done to build the children's choirs from young to Confirmation and beyond?

Choristers (young singers) building.

Promotion for Bell Choir.

Enhance and Improve Worship Experience for Weekend Liturgy Attendees

Determine if there are ways to improve the worship experience for Mass attendees at the weekend liturgies, which is the main connection we have with parishioners.

Greeters ministry upgraded.

Ongoing Formation and Certification for Ministers

To improve and enhance their participation and to demonstrate leadership to parishioners to fulfill the Parish mission.

Includes: Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers, Choirs, Ushers, Greeters

Need for VIRTUS training for any volunteers who may come in contact with children or vulnerable adults – lectors, ushers.

Dinner and training scheduled for Feb/Mar, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers

50th Anniversary of Church Celebration

Continue to be leaders and active participants during the 50th Anniversary of the Church celebration through June 2019.

Continuing through the year.

Continue to address physical improvements fo the worship space, large and small, current and newly determined

Large: sound system, acoustics/ceiling, hearing loop, handicap seating area

Small: railings, door openers for St Paul Plaza doors and restroom doors

Working on handicap seating.

Sound system, ceiling on 2018 Wish List.

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EXISTING CHOIR SEATING IN THE CHURCH

There are several problems with the seating of the choir in the chancel.

1. Instead of each row of pews sitting on a separate riser, there are two pews on each riser. The people in the second pew often can't see the choir director and end up projecting their voices into the person in front of them. All singers need to see, be seen and be able to project their voices without any hindrance.
2. The entire choir faces the wrong direction for being able to project into the nave of the church. Currently they face east when sitting in the pews. It is far more beneficial sonically for them as a group to face the baptistry.

In order to correct these issues, the choir sits in the pews and when singing choral anthems they have to move out of the pews and onto risers. Singing from the risers ensures that all can see the director and being in a tighter configuration, they can better hear one another and they can also project into the nave as they are facing the right direction.

Back in 1996 or 1997, Jim O'Brien redesigned the choir in the chancel when the organ was moved from the east to the west side of the sanctuary. He basically designed it the correct way that I have just described, however, the director at the time wouldn't approve and thus we have the unworkable situation we have today. Several years ago, I asked Jim to overhaul the entire chancel area which he did. It included moving the stairway to a new location, moving the wall with the banner poles back to join the existing west wall, in other words, a mirror image of the east side of the church. This would have necessitated the creation of a floor, thus extending the seating of the choir, creating more space for instrumentalists, and additional overflow seating for the congregation when needed and creating a larger space so that on occasion, the music groups could combine, which is not possible now due to the lack of space. It also had the possibility of adding in a small restroom underneath the new floor on the ground level of the former daily Mass chapel. A restroom for this area and side of the church is sadly lacking and would be a great improvement to the church. This was the Cadillac version.

Benefits of the Cadillac plan:

1. Sonic Projection into the nave
2. Correct elevation of each row of pews
3. Avoid so much movement of the choir from pews to risers and back again
4. Additional congregational seating when needed
5. Additional space for all musicians, including bell tables
6. Additional restroom on the west side of the church

Due to money constraints at the present time, I've asked Jim to come up with the Ford version, using existing pews and building an addition to the pew platform so that the choir faces the correct position, eliminating the movement back and forth from the risers and correcting the issues of two pews on one riser. I believe the Ford version is workable using parishioner talent to build onto the existing platform. Costs would be largely in purchasing flooring material etc. This work could be done over the summer when the choirs and music groups are in recess for the most part.

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