

Approved Minutes
St. Nicholas Parish Worship Committee
January 2, 2024

Members in Attendance: Deacon Gary Vanness, Melanie Lewin, Jim Newhouse, Bob Schommer, Judy Ver Bust, Carol Vosters, Karen Court, Kelly Bekkers-Graham, Glenda Saylor, Vicky Wolf

Members Absent: Fr. Robert Chinnapan and Ron Koepke

Opening Prayer-Deacon Gary

Review of Previous Minutes-Approved

Review of Agenda

Discussion Items:

- Pastor's Comments – Father Robert not present

Old Business:

- Recap Advent and Christmas Mass.
 - The church was decorated beautifully.
 - The location of the advent candles was positively received. The sacristans needed to light them since they were so high.
 - The choir singing 1 hour before 9pm mass needs to be advertised better next year so more people know to come earlier.
 - Next year, we suggested leaving the advent wreath up for Christmas season and change the color from purple to red and put the Christmas candle in it.
 - Sacristans need training on how to dim the lights; the lights are not obvious. At 4 pm mass it was done one light at a time.
- Have the hymnal inserts for the music selections been inserted in the hymnals? Kelly reported that she is getting high school religious education students to help and they will be inserted before Lent.
- Adult formation update.
 - Karen reported that the 33 days of Eucharistic by Matthew Kelly will be done this year. It will start on either Feb 21st and end on Palm Sunday or start Feb 26 and end on Good Friday. Betty Moser and Jean Peterson will be leading it on Tuesday mornings at 10am. If it goes well, we may do another session during the Easter season.
 - Karen will look for other formation options during Lent, considering more of an online option like watching the Chosen.
 - Hops and Hopes is a means group that meets the first Monday of the each month – this could be encouraged.
- Do we still need 1 or 2 new members for the Worship Committee? We would like one more member; Bob Schommer will reach out to Joel Powers.

New Business:

- Committee members:

- Bob Schommer, Judy Ver Bust and Carol Vosters are retiring from the committee. We thank you each of them for their dedication, guidance and help they have provided to our parish by serving on this committee.
 - Ron Koepke and Vicky Wolf are joining the committee.
 - Jim Newhouse will be new chairperson (taking over from Bob Schommer)
 - Vicky Wolf will be the new secretary (taking over from Carol Vosters)
- Friday, January 6th is the Epiphany. Kelly passed out the Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts. We would like to do this, however the musicians do not have time to be prepared for Epiphany. We agreed we would like it to be done next year. Jim will put it on our agenda to discuss in November.
 - Sunday, January 8th is the Baptism of Our Lord. An announcement will be made at church asking for help to take down Christmas decoration.
 - Friday, February 2nd is Candlemas. Father Robert had a idea of what we can do but he was not present to report. Deacon Gary will ask him about it. We are considering purchasing candles to hand out for the blessing of candles. The candles have to be a certain percentage of beeswax, so that is why we will need to provide candles.
 - Saturday, February 3rd is St Blaze Feast Day and the blessing of throats. Father Robert and Deacon Gary will be performing blessings before the weekend masses.
 - Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday. We need to get our Lenten books ordered so they can be available for Lent. Normally our parish staff recommends a book and the worship committee reviews/approves. This year since Lent is so early and the books need to be order, Deacon Gary will work with the staff to make a choice and get them ordered
 - Stations of the Cross. Jim will contact Ron Hardy to see if he will lead the stations again this year. Like last year, the hospitality committee will be offering soup and social after the stations each week. Also, we would like to make one family focused – to try to encourage families with younger children to attend.
 - Music for Lent. After communion the songs will be shorter to make it feel more “barren” and reflective of the Lent season. Also, the timing will be done when the gifts are brought up to the altar. Then Father Robert can say the prayers out loud.

Closing Prayer/Blessing- Deacon Gary

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Wolf

Next Meetings:

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm