

Unapproved Minutes

St Nicholas Parish Worship Committee

September 2, 2025

Members in Attendance: Jim Newhouse, Father Judah Pigon, Karen Court, Kelly Bekkers-Graham, Joel Powers, David Diedrick and Vicky Wolf.

Members not Present: Glenda Saylor

Guest: Marney Clark

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Judah led the opening prayer.

Review of the minutes from the April meeting: Motion to accept was made by Joel Powers and seconded by Karen Court. Motion passed.

Review of the Agenda: Motion to accept was made by Vicky Wolf and seconded by Karen Court. Motion passed.

Pastoral comments: Fr. Judah reported that he attended a diocesan meeting about music for mass. He said that we should do either Antiphons of the mass or source and summit in digital format. Unfortunately, our church is not set up well to have screens to display the songs so we are not sure if this will work. Jim and Kelly will talk to the music groups to get feedback and report back to the next meeting.

Old Business:

Grandparents and Elderly Weekend – September 7: Jim reported that the hospitality committee has everything set for Grandparents/Elderly person celebration. There will be light breakfast after 7:00am mass and a luncheon after 10:30 mass. Jim said he talked to the school, and they were not sure if they could get a craft together for the event. We will also be welcoming Fr. Judah on the same weekend.

New Mass Times: Beginning October 1st, weekend mass times will be Saturday at 4:00pm, Sunday at 7:30am and 9:30am. Jill has been busy updating everything to reflect our new schedule.

New Business:

Welcome new Worship Committee Member. David Diedrick has joined the Worship Committee as a member; he is the representative from the ushers. It is great to have this ministry represented to get their perspective about changes. Dave will be the link to communicating with our ushers.

Kneelers for Holy Communion. Marney Clark attended the meeting to share a request from a group of parishioners to have kneelers available for receiving the Eucharist. Jim had analyzed the request prior to our meeting and brought pictures of possible options. After the meeting, we went to church to review them. The option we recommend is to have one kneeler off to the left side of the altar and when it is time to distribute the Eucharist the ushers will move the kneeler to the center. Fr. Judah will stand by the kneeler and parishioners can choose to kneel or remain standing. Once everyone has received and Fr Judah is back at the altar, an usher will return the kneeler back to the left side. Jim will present this recommendation to the parish council for them to review and approve before it can be implemented. Prior to making the change, we need to add to the announcements an explanation of the change to help our church community to know that kneeling is not required for receiving the Eucharist.

Communion EMHC flow. With the addition of the kneelers, it is a good time to improve the flow of the communion line. We will be moving the EMHC from standing by the exit doors for distributing to the side pews to standing on the west side of the side pews by the altar. For the side pews, the flow will be reversed (so the parishioners will stand and walk towards the back of the church) to receive from the EMHC. Once the side pews are served the Eucharist, the EMHC turns around and then can distribute to the main body of the church.

For parishioners sitting in the St Therese Hall, the usher will check if anyone is down there. The usher will ask them, if possible, to come up by the door to receive the Eucharist so that way the EMHC does not need to go down steps with the Eucharist.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) commissioning. Jim asked the EMHC to find out if they had been commissioned in June mass. He found that over 20 have not been commissioned. We recommend scheduling two more masses for commissioning. Jim and Fr Judah will work together to have them scheduled.

Also, if we have more parishioners that want to be an EMHC, there are training classes at other parishes that they could attend. As needed, we need to reach out to the diocese to find out where and when the training masses are.

Ministries Scheduler (MSP). The Worship committee will be assisting with the administration of the MSP app. Vicky met with Jill to review the MSP app and determine how to help. Vicky and Jill will be working together to get the ministry schedule out for the next scheduling period (Oct 1 – Dec 31). They realized that Jill did not have “full administrative” capability, Nikki will be reaching out to Fr Robert to get this transferred to Jill and Nikki.

Seasonal Décor / Proper Norms Project. To eliminate any confusion about how to decorate and set up for special masses, we will be creating a booklet that documents this. Our committee will need to create this booklet. We will continue discussion of this at the next meeting.

Upcoming feasts:

- **All Saints** is Saturday, November 1 and **All Souls** is Sunday, November 2. All Saints will be celebrated at Saturday morning masses. At this time, St Nicholas is not planning to have a

mass; but the Refuge of Sinners in Freedom will have mass at 8am.

All Souls is a holy day of obligation and will be celebrated at the weekend masses. Saturday at 4pm mass will be the remembrance of our parishioners that passed away throughout the year. The mass will be set up just like last year. We send a letter to all families with someone who passed away this last year inviting them to mass and explain how the mass will be set up. There will be candle lit for each of our deceased parishioners and the family members can take it to the cemetery to place by their gravestone. We will ask the family to RSVP to the parish office, so we know who is attending.

- **Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary** is on Friday November 21. Mass will be at 8:15am.
- **Thanksgiving** is on Thursday November 27. Mass will be at 8:15am.
- **Advent** begins November 30. Jim will talk to Bob Schommer to schedule a time for him to put up the advent candle. Fr Judah is OK with the advent candle being put up early.
- **Feast of Immaculate Conception** is Monday, December 8th. Mass time will either be 8:15 or 5:45pm; Fr Judah needs to decide which he prefers. We did discuss that the Refuge of Sinners in Freedom has an 8am mass on Mondays, so maybe the 5:45pm would be better so the people that work have an option. However, the school children will not have mass on a holy day of obligation and will need to attend with their families.
- **Christmas** masses. Christmas eve mass times will be 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Christmas day masses will be 7:30am and 9:30am.
- **Solemnity of Mary** is on Thursday, January 1. Vigil mass will be on December 31 at 4pm. January 1 mass will be at 8:15.

Closing prayer was led by Fr. Judah

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm

Upcoming meetings:

*Tuesday, October 7 at 6:30pm

*Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicky Wolf