

Blessed Sacrament Parish



Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda Monday, August 12, 2024; 6pm in the Hall
*We, Blessed Sacrament Parish, are a
Christ-centered community;
Committed to worship the Father;
Committed to respond to the Spirit's gifts;
Committed to loving service to all God's people.*

1. Opening Prayer (Terry Mathias) Our Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many blessings of the last month, especially all the children, teens, and adults that participated in Vacation Bible School. We are grateful for all who served in a variety of different roles to demonstrate God's love to the children who were present. We thank you for this opportunity to gather this evening as we continue to work to serve your people. Guide our thoughts, words, and actions. May our discussions further the work of this parish, be pleasing in your sight, and bring honor to your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

2. Kudos – Emailed Previously

- Staff for finishing remodeling work ahead of schedule
 - Mike's work in organizing staff and parishioners
 - Natalie and how the new use of our space to allow activities
 - To all volunteers helping to spackle, paint and refinish
- Vacation Bible School volunteers
- Natalie for knowing everything and being helpful in keeping ministries in touch with those in need
- Kate Shirley and Charlie Wilson for singing at the 9 o'clock mass
- Kudos for all volunteers with pictorial directory
- Kudos to volunteers working on the garden
- Kudos to our new preachers and deacons that have covered all of the masses

3. Carryover Topics:

- Vacation Bible School: review, purpose, best time to schedule
 - Tons of volunteers (adult and teen); all the stations were ran well and the flow of the evening (2 hours with 20 minute stations);
 - The structure was good,
 - Attendees: 12, 9, 8, 5 – low but the experience was good
- Wrap up of the night for the kids to teach the adult a song – great way to incorporate the adults
- Single negative interaction of an adult attendee that didn't want to interact with children
- Adult Formation:
 - Attendees 8-14/night
 - Good sessions, good discussion
- Second year of a 5 year plan – last year better numbers but this year a better structure
 - Reach out to subcommittee to touch base every 4-6 weeks during the off season to plan next year
 - Paula Durst to incorporate VBS into Camp Leon planners
 - There is an overlap between age groups (willing workers, camp leon attendees, VBS volunteers, VBS attendees)
- Next year: Do we have a single vacation bible day camp? keep a weekly night for an entire month? Do we move it earlier in the summer? how do we connect Camp Leon to VBS and back again? do we have a set week each year for people to plan around.

Camp Leon (June 16th-22nd) - Always starts on Father Days

Camp Leon 2024 was held between June 16 and June 22, at Camp Carlos in Huttonsville, WV. We had an extremely successful week filled with fun, faith, friends and laughter.

We were very excited to almost be at full capacity this year. A full camp consists of 52 male and 52 female campers (a total of 104 campers). This year, we ended up with 44 males and 49 females (a total of 93 campers). We actually had a wait list of over 15 females prior to camp. In the last 2-3 weeks, we had a few female campers drop out for various reasons. We attempted to fill the empty slots from the wait list and did fill several spots; however, most on the wait list had already made other arrangements for the week. Our campers ranged in age from students who had just completed 1st grade through those that had just completed 8th grade. Campers this year were on the younger side as a whole. We only had 4 campers that were considered 8th graders, compared to 7 campers in 1st grade. With having a younger demographic, the hope and goal is we keep the young campers returning and keep the number of campers at full or almost full capacity.

For staff, we had 45 adult staff members, 11 high school staff members and 12 willing workers. Willing workers are students who have completed 9th grade and are no longer camper age. Having 12 willing workers also means that 12 campers from last year moved up and were no longer counted in our camper numbers. We were happy that we were able to almost fully replace those 12 camper spots with new campers. We were also very fortunate this year to have some former campers return with their own children and serve as adult staff members.

The theme of the week was Building Faith, Brick By brick. The campers worked on projects in the art room based on the theme and we did activities during the week to emphasize the theme. A few highlights of the week consisted of the following:

- On Sunday as a group activity, the camper's built – brick by brick - contraptions to house a raw egg. The contraptions were then dropped to see how many of the eggs survived the crash. Amazingly, the campers were great at this activity and after the first round all but 1 of the eggs survived. We actually ended up having to take away building supplies and dropping some of the eggs three times to find a winner.
- We did not participate in horse back riding this year due to scheduling issues with the horse wranglers. We were able to add another activity to replace horse back riding. We also added a slippy slide on two afternoons, which everyone loved.
- We had two campfires during the week. One was held on Tuesday and one on Friday that included any parents and families that wanted to attend. Campfire is always special for everyone.
- We were able to enjoy mass on three days due to the graciousness of Father Paul, Father Jim from Elkins and Deacon Tommy Ross. On the other two days, long time staffer and former camper Cher Lee spoke and shared stories and thoughts based on her long history with Father Leon.
- And as always, we had the annual Pie Eating Contest. The theme was Barbie and staff members dressed up as various Barbie's or Ken's. We had a pilot, a doctor, a teacher, a nurse, and a Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause to name a few. And of course, David Bowles was the pie eating champion.

Overall, the week was extremely successful and faith filled. The campers had a week away from televisions, phones and electronics and enjoyed nature, made friends and thought about their faith.

We are very hopeful that we will be able to return to Camp Carlos again next year. While the camp is still listed "for sale" there does not appear to be much interest. I was also told by Kara Milinovich, one of the directors on site this summer, that she heard Bishop Brennan state that while camp was being sold, one of the conditions was that the Diocese would still use the premises during the summer. I am not sure how marketable a camp is when the buyer would not be able to use the camp during the summer. Anyway, we have requested the week of June 15, 2025 for Camp Leon. Nick Chancey, Executive Director for Youth and Young Adult Discipleship, has told us that "without a doubt, we will absolutely be putting you back on the calendar for 2025." We are the first to request the date of June 15, so we are hopeful that will be

our official date. We also are going to tour Camp Bluestone and a few other camps this fall in case Camp Carlos

- Altar Server Coordinator
 - Chip Council has taken over
 - Building Sept/Oct schedule - goal to move to a quarterly schedule as altar server numbers increase
 - Keep reaching out to parishioners to help increase involvement
- Flooring Project
 - Able to walk through the renovated area,
 - We are ahead of schedule and the asbestos took less time than anticipated
 - Looking for volunteers for painting
 - Installation of new flooring to begin on 8/19
- Pictorial Directory
 - All the portraits are finished, or submitted
 - Mike Switzer schedule has increased and his hours are reduced for our project
 - Link will be sent out personally to help order photos in August
 - Diocese is helping put the directory together
 - Two volunteers are helping to bring all information together and cross reference
 - No full time frame on completion
- Garden Project
 - Phase 1 to be completed this fall
 - Home Depot fencing has
 - Valley Gardens have developed the grading plan to be start in September
 - Home Depot has won bid for fencing
 - Adding infrastructure for lighting and water
 - Shed designed and ready to be built for the garden
 - Hope to share information in bulletin until grading begins to “see the change”
- Event/Gathering after Building Renovation is Completed
 - Sept 7 - movers will be re furnished
 - Allow whole week for rearrangement
 - Sept 15 - possible open house / pancake breakfast
 - Sept 22 - faith formation begins
- Small Group Survey
 - Email survey to Natalie Zellers and Terry

- Synod and vicariate
 - Plan to reach out to Matt to get meeting minutes from previous vicariate council

4. Council Member Concerns (please notify Terry Mathias ahead of time)

- Removal of names from email list
 - Pam Baker and JR Bailey would like to be added back to the email list
 - Concerns with directory with parishioner turn over
 - How much evangelization are we to do
 - Plan to reach out to Natalie

5. General Parishioner Concerns

- Why are the deacons doing the chalice during communion?
 - Deacons main job is to give the chalice when it is the offering
 - **Fr Paul will write up a factoid for the bulletin**

6. Staff Concerns

- Very busy summer with multiple projections but we are stepping up to the plate
- Music ministry - small group Music between the Masses did really well in the month of July - 4 weeks to keep kids intrigued – plan to repeat

Next Meeting September 9 at 6pm

September Prayer – Molly Linehan

7. Closing Prayer (Terry Mathias) Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time we had to spend together this evening. As we leave this place, we pray for all the members of this parish, that you would strengthen their faith and deepen their relationship with you. Comfort those who are grieving, heal those who are ill, and keep all of us in your loving arms. Help us to minister to them and work to meet their needs as we become aware of them. We ask all these things in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Attendance:

David Lewia; Dan McLaughlin, Charlie Wilson, Rick Brennan, Jonathan Perry, Katie Smithberger, Molly Linehan, Chip Council
 Father Paul, Mary Odin, Natalie Zellers, Tony O’Leary