

**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7 PM**

Present were Gail Patrick, Mary Boucher, Noel Voos, Anna Delles, Jeffrey Hughes, Dennis Olshfski, Joseph Drake, Kareta Olshfski and Monsignor Aucoin.

Monsignor opened the meeting with a prayer and presented members with an agenda and copy of the Report from Aubertine & Currier Architects and Engineers. Earlier in the week Monsignor had emailed to all members copies of two letters directed to Bishop LaValley, the engineer's report concerning St. Mary's and articles as it relates to a vibrant parish and how we can make our parishes more welcoming.

Members were pleased with the detailed report and found the comments for repairs in line with their concerns, which was mainly the drainage problems, the required pointing of the stone exterior walls, attention to the cellar and the bell tower.

Monsignor reported that he wanted to give thought to the sacred objects of both St. Joseph's and St. Theresa's. He reminded members that once an inventory and the process of trying to find appropriate homes for the sacred items was exhausted, they would be buried in the cemetery. Vestments that were no longer able to be used would be burned. There was discussion on the stained glass windows at St. Theresa's and Monsignor explained how other parishes have made these into light boxes and perhaps that could be explored for use in the parish center. Another possibilities for the windows would be to fashion them into sun catchers

Joe Drake advised Monsignor that he was unable to make the Town Meeting and had not fully realized that it was the consensus of the council to close St. Joseph's. Monsignor advised that the two letters directed to Bishop LaValley would not be acted upon until the end of February since that is when the Council of Priests meets. It is hoped that the civil merger of the parishes would take place for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

The mass attendance was discussed and the articles that Monsignor provided to the council related to making our parishes more welcoming. There was discussion on hospitality, greeting parishioners, having more ushers taking up the collection,

asking parishioners to bring up the gifts at the offertory in addition to the people that have requested masses.

It was suggested that more altar servers are needed and perhaps a refresher training course be provided for current servers, to include them participating in prayers during mass, assisting new servers and rotating their responsibilities.

Monsignor expressed his appreciation of members attending and their input on the various topics.

The Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.