

**St Mary Catholic Faith Community
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
11/07/24**

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Jim Podewils, Maureen Riemer, David Fritz, Brenda White, Gilbert Frenn, Pilar Azmani, Janet Miller, Joe Plassmeyer, Steven Rice, Mel Hendrickson, Clem Budny.

Excused: Caroline Schachtlie, Elisabeth Chojnacki, Tammy DuBois

Opening Prayer: Father Aaron led All Saints Day Prayer

Finance – No New Meeting

Deanery – [Deanery 10-23-24 Final.pdf](#)

No New Meeting

Discipleship – [Discipleship Minutes 10-17-24 Final.pdf](#)

Book Chosen for Christmas. 4,000 Postcards to be mailed to the entire St Mary neighborhood before Thanksgiving. A Christmas handout will be available for members of St. Mary's to hand out. Four new members joined the Team.

Pastoral Care – Mass of Hope & Healing and Mass of Reference were successful and beautiful.

School – [School Advisory 10-15-24 Final.pdf](#)

Discussed school goals. Strategic planning. New “Tech Board” discussions. Looking at fundraisers to help defray costs. Looking at funding like grants to provide services for accepting Special Needs children. Discussions regarding Marketing and the school website have begun to revamp what we have to try to bring in potential new families. May want to add subcommittees for school and is looking to add 1 new member. “Parent Page” on Facebook - discussions for having someone assigned to monitor it. Looking for ways to get children involved in mass.

SLAW – No Meeting

Human Concerns – No Meeting

Deacon Bill Farewell – Brenda will take care of getting a Book for parishioners to sign and a box for cards for Deacon Bill and have it available for the 4pm mass attendees and then also for all 3 masses on Sunday. Jim, Joe and Maureen will set up hospitality on Saturday in preparation for Sunday hospitality. Jim will order sheet cake, donuts and beverages. Joe will take pictures to commemorate the event. Helpers are: 7:30am mass: Jim, Pilar and David. 9am mass: Joe, Brenda, David and Jim. 11 am mass and cleanup: Brenda, Joe, Jim and Maureen.

New Member Welcome Committee – Maureen reported that mentor volunteers will be needed for meeting with new families or individual members to get to know them and answer questions, offering to meet and sit with during Mass, do follow up calls to keep them engaged, introduce new members to others within the Parish, and share information about opportunities to get involved.

Possibility of doing orientation/welcome breakfast 3x/year and have all the new members (and possibly the mentors) come. Considering Fr. Aaron, Jeff, Linda and Dan to be the speakers to share. Give a history and tour of St. Mary's church, school and cemetery (behind the scenes); review areas to get involved with activities and actions to make new members feel part of the St Mary Family. Considering a Welcome Mass for new members 4-6x/yr where new members and their mentors sit in a section with name tags and Fr. Aaron offers a special prayer during mass for them, followed by one of the Hospitality weekends.

Stewardship Commission – Fr. Aaron, Jim and Brenda will look into forming a Stewardship commission. They will check with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to see how to create a stewardship culture. Tie into Called and Gifted.

Pastor's Report – Possibility of a new Permanent Deacon on horizon. Should be determined by the end of November. Jan 14th is the installation of New Archbishop. There are 12 new altar servers. 11/22 at 6:30 pm Going Deeper with Jesus. 09:00 Thanksgiving Mass. Be Still and Know is 12/08/24.

Christmas Mass scheduled for 4:00 (children's choir), 6:00, 9:45 (Christmas Choir Concert) and 10:30pm Christmas Eve Mass. Christmas Day – 08:00 and 10:30am.

Blessing: Fr. Aaron at 8pm.

Submitted by: Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary