

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
1-9-2025
St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Maureen Riemer, Caroline Schachtlie, Elisabeth Chojnacki, Brenda White, David Fritz, Gilbert Frenn, Joe Plassmeyer, Pilar Azmani, Janet Miller, Steven Rice, Jim Podweils

Excused: Clem Budny, Tammy DuBois, Mel Hendrickson

Opening Prayer: Fr Aaron led a Lectio Divina for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Approval of Pastoral Council Minutes: The Pastoral Council Minutes from [Pastoral Council 10-10-24 Final.pdf](#) and [Pastoral Council 11-07-24 Final.pdf](#) were approved.

Liaison Reports:

Deanery:

- Focus topics from 10/23/24 meeting:
 - Safe Environment, Prevention & Response services
 - Security at parish campuses
 - Updates regarding what local parishes are doing, i.e. fundraisers
- Next meeting: Jan 22, 2025 at St. Martin of Tours

Discipleship:

- Christmas cards (4000) inviting the entire St. Mary neighborhood to Christmas Mass were sent before Thanksgiving and was very effective (see Pastor's report) ●
- Next meeting: Jan 16, 2025

Finance:

- 12/10/24 meeting:
 - Reviewed 2025 budget process/goals for Parish and School
 - On track for current budget
 - School enrollment at 385, budgeted for 410

Human Concerns: [Human Concerns Report \(S-D \)2024 Final.pdf](#)

- Hospitality Weekend will be 5/17 & 5/18/25
- Committee members are reaching out to parishioners who haven't been in the pews lately to see if there is anything they may need

- Circle of Love is looking for new leadership. If you know of anyone, let a committee member know
- Next meeting: Jan 8, 2025

Pastoral Care: [Pastoral Care 11-06-24 Final.pdf](#)

- Intercessory prayer team is looking to expand ministry to other Masses ●
- Compassus (Hospice organization) is looking for volunteers to reach out to hospice patients and families
- Pastoral Care team did 28 hospitality visits
- Next meeting: Jan 8, 2025

School:

- 12-10-24 meeting was canceled
- Next meeting: Jan 14, 2025

SLAW:

- Published the latest liturgical calendar
- Next meeting: Feb 15, 2025

Pastor Report:

- Installation of the new Archbishop Jeffrey Grob to take place at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Jan 14, 2025 at 1:30pm with Solemn Evening Prayer on Jan 13, 2025 at 6pm. This will be a ticketed event with live streaming available.
- Archbishop Grob Meet & Greet - Feb 18, 10:30am-12pm here at St. Mary in the Gathering Space. This is a priest only event. We are expecting 100-125 to attend. The Parish Council will be providing hospitality. Five members (Joe, Jim, Maureen, David and Gilbert) have volunteered to set up and buy food for the occasion.
- 20% Mass increase from last year for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Masses.
 - There were approximately 3000 people who attended Christmas Mass. Several people mentioned they were here because of the postcard that was sent out. Sending out another postcard invitation to attend Easter Mass is being considered.
- There have been multiple new parishioner registrations received
- Jim Clauer, Director of Liturgy and Music will be having surgery Jan 13 with a 6-8 week recovery period. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Deacon John D'Alessio is settling into his role here at St. Mary. His formal assignment will be reviewed in April.
- Magnify will return Jan 29

- St. Blaise blessing is scheduled for Feb 1 and 2 after all Masses with intercessory prayer being rescheduled from the 9am Mass
 - RCIA has formally been renamed OCIA-Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. We will be celebrating a full vigil of sacraments at the Easter Vigil in April.

Vision & Strategy:

- Fr Aaron reached out to Tom Frederickson (Archdiocese contact) to gather information/resources to guide strategic planning decisions.
- Stewardship Commission - Fr Aaron spoke with Cindy Lukowitz (Archdiocese contact) to discuss the development of a new Stewardship commission here at St Mary. Cindy provided Fr Aaron a handout that he shared at our meeting. Further discussions/meetings will be held to review the startup process.
- New Member Welcoming Committee - Led by Maureen Riemer. Will meet with Jeff Kacala, Debbie Cottone, Linda Joyner and Dan Hansen to discuss objectives and implementation of the program. Would like to start with 2-3 Welcome Masses. Looking for volunteers to reach out to new parishioners/families. Currently 17 volunteers have signed up to help with this new ministry.

Friendly Reminders:

- Commission Hospitality Sundays - Please reach out to Maureen Riemer so she can coordinate your weekend request(s) with Janice TreuteLaar and the parish calendar
- Commission Roster Information - Please provide a current roster with term limits and scheduled meeting dates to Caroline Schachtlie at 87lakegirl@gmail.com.

What are you hearing:

- Human Concerns Lenten Outreach Partners- When should speakers share an update regarding their ministry, before Mass or after Communion? Because announcements are made at the beginning of Mass, it was suggested the speakers come up before Mass to give an update. Fr Aaron to discuss with Dan Hansen and then make a decision.
- Christmas Mass - Chair set up in the Gathering Space - People who were sitting in the Gathering Space were loud and not focused on the Mass. Fr. Aaron suggested putting up signs that say, "Please keep a prayerful silence".

Blessing: The meeting closed with a blessing

Submitted by: Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary