

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
03-13-2025
St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Caroline Schachtlie, Elisabeth Chojnacki, David Fritz, Gilbert Frenn, Joe Plassmeyer, Pilar Azmani, Steven Rice, Jim Podweils, Clem Budny, Mel Hendrickson

Excused: Tammy DuBois, Maureen Riemer, Brenda White, Janet Miller

Opening Prayer: Fr Aaron led the opening prayer by reciting the Litany to St. Joseph. March is Consecration to St Joseph month. St. Joseph listens and obeys; the protector of Mary and Jesus.

Approval of Pastoral Council Minutes: The Pastoral Council Minutes [Pastoral Council 02-13-25 Final.pdf](#) were approved.

Liaison Reports:

Deanery:

- No report
- Next meeting TBD

Discipleship: [Discipleship Minutes 02-20-25 Final.pdf](#)

- “Witness to Love” is the new marriage preparation program
- “Mass Bags” are being created with quiet activities for children to use during mass
- Vacation Bible School volunteers are needed
- 1st young adult Lenten small group was created
- School of Prophetic Ministry to be held on Feb 21 & 22
- Postcard to be sent to local community inviting neighbors to attend Easter Masses
- Next meeting: March 20, 2025

Finance:

- Fiscal Year End is June 30, 2025
- Planning of next year’s budget is in the works

Human Concerns: [Human Concerns 01-08-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Hospitality weekend change from 5/17 to 6/28 & 6/29
 - Maureen sent an email out to the Pastoral Council liaisons with hospitality

weekends available to sign up for

- Knights of Columbus made a donation to the Women's Center for Ultrasound equipment
- Parishioner survey regarding outreach-What are parishioners looking for with outreach?
- Next meeting: May 7, 2025

Pastoral Care: [Pastoral Care 01-08-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Pastoral Care will sponsor a Hospitality weekend in late October or February 2026
 - Parish calendar for 2025/2026 is not set up yet

School: [School 02-11-25 Final.pdf](#)

- State funded Special Needs scholarship is being applied for for specific speech services
 - State aid payment for each student
 - Parish school will need to go through an audit to be considered
 - Is not a "Choice" program
- Two parish liaisons have stepped down creating three open spots to be filled
- Royal Affair - "Fund a Need" request
 - Smart Boards and iPads

SLAW: [SLAW 02-25-25 Final.pdf](#)

- During Catholic Schools Week, students participated in the Mass
- Congratulations to Mary Wackman who received the Catholic Herald award-Teacher of the Year.

Fr Aaron's Pastor Report:

- Director of Communications (Marketing) for the Parish and School
 - Writing the job description
 - Needed for school and enrollment
 - Full-time position to be posted next week
- Lenten Activities
 - Evening Prayer - 4pm Sundays with Deacon John D'Alessio
 - Stations of the Cross - Fridays @ 6:30pm, except for April 4th and Good Friday
 - Going Deeper with Jesus - April 4th
 - Senior Stations of the Cross
 - Staff Retreat - April 4th
- Easter Mass Schedule
 - Holy Thursday - 7pm
 - Good Friday - 1pm
 - Easter Vigil - 8pm

- Easter Sunday - 7am, 9am & 11am

Vision & Strategy:

- Stewardship Commission
 - Met with Cindy Lukowitz who suggested combining Stewardship Commission with Discipleship
 - Would like this to be a separate commission
 - Need to create a Mission Statement
 - Will meet with Cindy Lukowitz, Jim Podewils and Jeff to determine how this commission will look
 - To work on Strategic Planning before setting up the Stewardship Commission

New Member Welcome:

- Goal to recognize new members to the parish twice a year
- 17 volunteers have signed up to mentor couples
- Debbie Cottone working with Maureen to create training sessions
- 25% of new parishioners are newly married couples
- Suggestion: Have a registration Sunday every or every other month

2025/2026 Discernment:

- Steve Rice, Dave Fritz, Janet Miller are up for renewal to Pastoral Council
- Maureen Riemer will complete her second term in June, 2025
- Discernment Process:
 - Decide by May whether or not to continue participation on Pastoral Council
 - Notification to Parish of open positions available in June
 - Calls to people who are interested in July
 - Orientation - 1st week in August

What are you hearing:

- Hospitality Weekend bulletin announcement needs to be given to Anne W 10 days prior to publication

Blessing: The meeting closed with a blessing

Submitted by: Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary