

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
06-12-25
St Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

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

Excused: Caroline Schachtlie, Mel Hendrickson, Pilar Azmani, Clem Budny

Opening Prayer: We prayed the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Approval of Pastoral Council Minutes: We approved the Meeting Minutes from both March and May. [Pastoral Council 03-13-25 Final.pdf](#), [Pastoral Council 05-08-25 Final.pdf](#)

Festival:

- Pastoral Council Members are encouraged to sign up to volunteer at the mostaccioli dinner on Saturday, 7/12. You can sign up on the Parish website.
- We will make an attempt to have an outdoor mass at 10:30 (not 11AM) on the Sunday of the Parish Festival.
- A new Finance Chairperson has been lined up.

Liaison Reports

Finance:

- Brenda: The 2025-2026 budget has been passed. The deficit is \$200K. New Staff Positions of Director of Marketing and Special Needs Program are in the budget. There is no Associated Pastor included in the budget. June 30th closes out the current fiscal year. There is a focus on increasing enrollment and in-kind donations. May have to go into the parish reserves if these efforts don't bear fruit. Some positive notes: we do have a 5-year surplus and investments are strong. The Endowment Committee is working hard on the endowment program.

Deanery:

- Activity will pick up in the Fall.

Discipleship: [Discipleship Minutes 05-15-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Father Aaron: Vacation Bible School is being prepped; Jess is setting up materials. VBS will take place August 4-8th. 70 kids are either signed up or the goal (unsure of which).

Human Concerns: [Human Concerns 05-07-25 Final.pdf](#)

- David: HC met on Wednesday, May 7th. Having the ministry partners speaking before the Masses was well-received. The Flocknotes really seemed to help. Each ministry partner group raised between \$3500-\$5500. There is a new Circle of Love Coordinator, Linda Zielinski.

Pastoral Care:

- Father Aaron: They are going through Officer discernment, as Shelly's time is up. Next meeting is in September.

School:

- Joe Plassmeyer: they are trying to backfill the School Advisory Committee. They are trying to get individuals that are Parish Members without kids, which has been a struggle. Within the School Advisory Committee, there is a good mix of grade level representation.

SLAW:

- Steven: No update, SLAW has not met since the last Pastoral Council Meeting.

Pastor's Report:

- Director of Communication posting yielded 7-8 applicants. 2 of the candidates are looking promising, and there are 2 interviews yet to go.
- Strategic Planning Update letter is done, just waiting on School Advisory to firm this up. Overall, this is looking good.
- Corpus Christi Procession is scheduled on 6/22 after the 11AM Mass. It will be a 1- mile walk. This will be followed by the confirmation retreat.
- Dan met with the Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese.
- Starting letter writing campaign for Enhanced Giving. We are taking a different approach and are trying to be educational on what the realities are, as opposed to directly asking.
- The Steubenville Youth Movement took place in Joliet this past weekend. 8 kids from our parish attended.
- Discernment timeline and proposed dates to be distributed by Father. • Future

Pastoral Council meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, except for in September, in which the meeting will take place on the 3rd Thursday of that month. There will be no meetings in December, April and July. • Called & Gifted email went out. This will be a high priority for the parish. Will take place August 13th & the 20th. Pastoral Council members are encouraged to attend

Discernment (note: schedule copied from previous meeting): • Janet reported that she has discerned and will not be returning for Pastoral Council.

- Announcements will go out on July 5-6.
- Nominations will open on July 12-13, and close on the 20th.
- Nominees will be called between July 22-25.
- Orientation will take place July 29-30.
- Discernment will take place on August 14.

What Are You Hearing?

- The choir reported that they are not completely opposed to singing at 9AM Mass; however, setup time is a concern.