

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
09-18-25
St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Tom Gaglione, Brenda White, Joe Plassmeyer, Mary Beth Katorski, Frank LaSusa, Caroline Schachtlie, David Mikolainis, Gilbert Frenn, Pilar Azmani

Excused: Jim Podewils, Elisabel Chojnacki, Mel Hendrickson, Clem Budny and Tammy DuBois

Opening Prayer: Fr. Aaron led the group in praying the 7 Sorrows Rosary

Approval of Minutes: Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2025 were approved.
[Pastoral Council 06-12-25 Final.pdf](#)

Liaison Reports:

Finance:

- Meeting was held 08-19-25
- Bob Watson is the new Chair of the Finance Council
- For six years, the budget has been met. However, a deficit (\$200k) is projected for this fiscal year. There has been no increase in Offertory giving. In October, Fr. Aaron will be sending out a letter explaining the Offertory Giving program.
- The HVAC (Love One Another) project has been completed
- School enrollment is stable and on projection

Deanery:

- Activity will pick back up in the fall

Discipleship: [Discipleship 06-19-25 Final.pdf](#) [Discipleship 08-21-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Meeting was held 06-19-25
- David Kreidler and Victoria Stasiewicz are the new Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Discipleship Commission
- Goals were discussed at the meeting
- Called and Gifted was held on 08-13-25
- Magnify returned in July
- Encounter School of Healing will be held on 10/10 & 10/11/25 in the Gathering Space

- Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month

Human Concerns: [Human Concerns 08-13-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Meeting was held 09-10-25
- Chris Warner continues as Chair of the Human Concerns Commission
- Topics discussed were: Circle of Love, Monthly letters to parishioners to ask “What do you need from the Parish?”
- Next meeting will be Jan 2026

Pastoral Care: [Pastoral Care 05-07-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Meeting was held on 09-03-25
- Mary Killiher is the new Chair of the Pastoral Care Commission
- The Commission continues current activities
- Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Marian Room

School Advisory:

- Jennifer Lester is the Chair of the School Advisory Commission
- 385 students are enrolled St. Mary Parish School
- Enrollment projections are on target
- Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month

SLAW: [SLAW 06-24-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Meeting was held on 08-24-25
- Bev Jurkowski continues as Chair of the SLAW Commission
- Discussed Liturgical Do's and Don'ts. An email was sent out highlighting some reminders when entering and exiting the sanctuary, distributing communion, etc., to all ministry participants.
- Prepping for Hospitality weekend
- Next meeting will be 11-11-25

Officer and Liaison Discernment:

- St Mary Pastoral Council Liaisons are the bridge between the Pastoral Council and Parish Commissions
- A handout was shared outlining Roles and Expectations. Fr. Aaron to send a copy to the Commission Chairs
- Discernment:
 - **Chair:** Jim Podewils
 - **Vice Chair:** Gilbert Frenn
 - **Secretary:** Caroline Schachtlie
 - **Finance:** Brenda White
 - **Deanery:** Elisabel Chojnacki
 - **Discipleship:** Mary Beth Katorski

- **Human Concerns:** Joe Plassmeyer
- **Pastoral Care:** David Mikolainis & Tom Gaglione
- **School Advisory:** Mel Hendrickson & Frank LaSusa
- **SLAW:** Pilar Azmani

Encounter School of Healing:

- Mary Beth Katorski gave an overview of the Encounter Ministries School of Healing being held Oct 10 & 11 in the Gathering Space at Church. There will be a healing service at 6:30pm on Saturday, 10-11-25. The cost of the program is \$75.
- Our Parish Mission will be held on Dec 1 & 2

Pastor's Report:

- Meeting time-6:00 or 6:30pm? Consensus to keep meeting start time at 6:30pm ● Strategic "Pastoral" Planning Objectives
 - Dan Scholz from Marquette is focused on the strategic planning for St Mary Parish School which is currently moving forward
 - Tom Fredrickson is focused on the strategic planning for the Parish
 - The group is currently discerning if strategic planning for the school and parish can be done together
- School Security
 - Due to the recent shooting at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, MN, changes have been made to the church access during the Tuesday, 8:15am school Mass
 - The Bell Tower entrance will be locked on Tuesdays
 - The main church entrance will be locked at 8:15am. If people come after 8:15am, they will need to come to the Parish office to obtain entrance to the church
 - The Police have been asked to patrol the area around the church and school on Tuesdays
 - St Mary has passed four security audits and protocols are in place
 - Doors to the church will not be locked on weekends
- Liturgical Calendar:
 - Magnify will be held on Sept 24 at 6:30pm
 - Will not be held in Nov or Dec
 - Pet Blessing - Oct 4 @ 10am
 - Confirmation - Oct 5 @ 11am, 74 people will be confirmed by Archbishop Grob
 - Mass of Hope and Healing - Oct 14 @ 6:30pm
- New Pastoral Council members
 - Has everyone picked up their name tags and submitted their personal bio to Anne W?

- Teaching Parish Committee
 - What is a Teaching Parish? It is a 4 year commitment focused on providing a Seminarian oversight into Parish life while interacting with parish staff and ministry leaders.
 - Mitchell Carey, who comes to us from the Diocese of Spokane WA, will be introduced to the Parish the weekend of Sept 20 & 21.
 - Deacon John Akau has been given a preaching assignment here at St. Mary as part of his Diaconate studies.

- Common Leadership Night
 - Will be held Thursday, Nov 13 @ 6:30pm
 - All Commissions will come together, each sharing a 3-5 minute summary of what their commission is currently focusing on
 - Details of the Common Leadership Night will be discussed at the Oct Pastoral Council meeting
 - Liaisons have been asked to share this information with their individual commission
 - Fr. Aaron will also send out an email to the Commission Chairs with information regarding the Common Leadership Night
 - Looking to have another Common Leadership Night in the spring

What are you hearing?:

- We are the voice of the people, good/bad/indifferent
- Virtual Meetings can be set up with Google meet
- Wear Pastoral Council nametags for Hospitality Sunday and more formal events

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm with a Blessing from Fr. Aaron

Submitted by: Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary