

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
02-12-26
St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Mitchell Carey, Brenda White, Tom Gaglione, Mary Beth Katorski, Jim Podewils, Caroline Schachtlie, Elisabeth Chojnacki, Gilbert Frenn, Frank LaSusa, Dave Mikolainis

Excused: Pilar Azmani, Clem Budny, Melissa Hendrickson, Joe Plassmeyer, Tammy DuBois

Opening Prayer: Mary Beth Katorski led the group in Intercessory Prayer: Hebrews 4:16

New Ministry Proposal: Ladies of Charity

- Human Concerns has asked the Pastoral Council to consider adding a new Ministry Partner to our group of Outreach Partners
- Mary Spannbauer and Chris Warner attended our meeting and gave a short overview of the program they would like to start here at St. Mary
- The focus is to gather new or gently used school age clothing for MPS students K4-12
- Roll out will be in May, if approved

Approval of Minutes: [Pastoral Council 01-08-26 Final.pdf](#)

- January Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes were approved

Liaison Reports:

Finance:

- Meeting held 01-20-26
- Reviewed YTD Financials
- Discussed preliminary budget assumptions
- Established a Personnel Committee
- There has been a positive response to the Enhanced Offertory Giving campaign

Discipleship: [Discipleship 01-15-26 Final.pdf](#)

- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for 8/3 - 8/7/26
- There are 57 students preparing for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation and 27 students for Confirmation
- The Discipleship Commission is currently doing a book study: Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell

Human Concerns:

- The Commission did not meet

Pastoral Care: [Pastoral Care 01-07-26 Final.pdf](#)

- Tom Gaglione attended an informational meeting highlighting the new Notebird Software the Pastoral Care Commission will be using to organize their different ministries • The Commission did not meet

School Advisory:

- The group reviewed the new Parents Handbook
- Discussed Geofencing to reach new families who might be interested in sending their child(ren) to St. Mary School

SLAW:

- Discussed all things Lent and the rehearsal schedule for the Triduum • Steve Janko will be leading a morning reflection with the Liturgical Ministers on 4/25/26

Pastor's Report:

- Introduced Mitchell Carey (St Francis deSales Seminarian)

Strategic Planning:

- Mission, Vision, Values - School and Parish
 - Academic Excellence, Saints, Vocations
- The School's Strategic Plan is finalizing the results of the Parent Survey • St Mary's has signed a contract with Discipleship Maker Index (a survey tool) to help with Parish Strategic Planning

Calendar:

- Ash Wednesday, 2/18/26. Masses will be held at 8:15am, 12:10pm and 7pm • Magnify, 2/25/26. Tom Gaglione will be sharing his faith testimony
- Stations of the Cross will be held on all Fridays of Lent except Good Friday ○ Stations of the Cross for Seniors will be held at 1pm on 2/20 and 3/13/26 • There will be no evening prayer at 4pm on Sundays during Lent

Gathering Space Policy: Approved with 2 opposed**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

- Gilbert Frenn shared there is a great need for Eucharistic Ministers especially at the

7:30am Mass

- There is an article in the 2/1/26 bulletin explaining the ministry
- Pastoral Council members have been asked to fill empty EM spots when attending Mass
- Consider asking someone to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Emmaus Companion Program:

- New Parishioners are matched with a "Companion" to welcome them to our Parish
- 13 Companions have volunteered so far for this program
- New Parishioners are provided an updated Welcome Packet
- Approximately 10 new Parishioners joined St Mary Parish in January

Common Leadership Night - 3/12/26:

- Liaisons are asked to remind their Commission about Common Leadership Night happening on 3/12/26 in the Gathering Space
- Joe Plassmeyer has been asked to coordinate food for the evening • People will be asked to wear nametags, highlighting their Commission • Breakout rooms will be the same as last time (11/13/25)
- Timeline:
 - 5:45pm - Doors open
 - 6pm - food is served
 - 6:30pm - Prayer
 - 6:45pm - Breakout Meetings
 - 8pm - Commission reports and wrapup

Parish Festival - 7/10, 7/11 and 7/12/26:

- Pastoral Council will be hosting the Saturday evening dinner
- 24 people are needed to staff the event
- Volunteers are needed from 3 - 7:30pm

Pastoral Council Discernment:

- There will be 4 open spaces available as of July 2026
- Melissa Hendrikson, Elisabel Chojnacki and Joe Plassmeyer, their terms are up for renewal

What are you Hearing?:

- Gathering Space Policy concerns
- Men of Christ Conference, 3/14/26, held at the Miller High Life Theatre

Share your Joy:

- Where is God moving in your life - Share your story

The meeting was adjourned with a Blessing from Fr. Aaron

Submitted by: Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary