

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
02-13-25
St Mary Catholic Faith Community
Hales Corners, WI

Present: Fr. Aaron Laskiewicz, Maureen Riemer, Caroline Schachtlie, Elisabeth Chojnacki, Brenda White, Joe Plassmeyer, Janet Miller, Jim Podweils, Clem Budny, Deacon John D'Alessio

Excused: Tammy DuBois, Steve Rice, David Fritz, Gilbert Frenn, Pilar Azmani, Mel Hendrickson

Opening Prayer: Fr Aaron led the group in Intercessory Prayer, Praying for Others

Approval of Pastoral Council Minutes: The Pastoral Council Minutes [Pastoral Council 01-09-25 Final.pdf](#) were approved.

Liaison Reports:

Deanery:

- The 01-22-25 meeting was not held due to the installation of the new Archbishop. Once Archbishop Grob reinstates the governance structure of the Archdiocese, Deanery meetings will be scheduled.

Discipleship: [Discipleship Minutes 01-16-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Pilar Azmani was excused from the 02-13-25 Pastoral Council meeting. Please see attached Discipleship Meeting Minutes for an update.

Finance:

- At the 01-21-25 Finance Council meeting, budget priorities were discussed, i.e. funding for an Associate Pastor and School expenses. We are halfway through the fiscal year and are on budget.

Human Concerns:

- David Fritz was excused from the 02-13-25 Pastoral Council Meeting.
- Next meeting: March 5, 2025

Pastoral Care:

- Next meeting will be March 5, 2025

School: [School 01-14-25 Final.pdf](#)

- Discussions are in the works to plan another school "open house", similar to the one held during Catholic Schools Week. The focus will be on increasing school

enrollment for the 2025-26 school year. The thought was to have the “open house” when the School Advisory Commission sponsors a Hospitality Weekend. Joe Plassmeyer asked if there was availability for a weekend in May or June.

SLAW:

- Next meeting: 2-23-25

Pastor's Report:

- Judith White has resigned her position as Head Sacristan and left the parish. Fr. Aaron sent a letter thanking Judith for her service. Going forward, Karen Tomczak will be taking over as lead. Several individuals have expressed interest in becoming a weekend sacristan.
- Jim Clauer, Director of Liturgy and Music, will be returning to work next week. Post surgery, he is doing very well.
- Encounter School of Prophecy is being held at St Mary in the Gathering Space on Feb 21/22. The focus of the sessions will be discerning God's messages/images and praying for and with others. Contact Jeff Kacala if you are interested in attending, there is still room!
- Lenten Activities:
 - Ash Wednesday-March 5th
 - Evening Prayer with Deacon John-Sundays at 4pm
 - Stations of the Cross-Fridays at 7pm, except Good Friday
 - Afternoon Stations of the Cross for Seniors
 - Small Group Stations of the Cross for our youth

Associate Pastor Update:

- St Mary Parish will not be assigned an Associate Pastor for the 2025/26 term due to funding concerns. Fr. Aaron has approached the Priest Placement Board regarding Fr. Mike Ignaszak and has asked to have Fr. Mike considered for an assignment as a part-time Associate or weekend help. The Placement Board is agreeable to these ideas, but the final decision has yet to be made. Ultimately, the goal is to have a newly ordained priest assigned as an Associate Pastor here at St. Mary.

Strategic Planning Update:

- An initial meeting was held Feb 11th with Tom Frederickson, Archdiocese Representative, to discuss our “Formal Vision and Goals” for St. Mary Catholic Faith Community and School. A group of 13 members: Pastor, Principal, Dan Hansen, Finance Chair, School Advisory Chair, Parishioners, Trustees, a School parent, Jeff Kacala and Jim Podewils will perform a gap analysis of all areas to determine our strengths and areas in need of improvement. The goal is: Salvation of Souls and Discipleship. More information to come.

Common Meeting Night:

- Fr. Aaron distributed a handout explaining the premise behind a “Common Meeting Night”. The goal is to work towards increased awareness and collaboration between our many Commissions, Committees, Pastoral Council and parish ministries/organizations in order to respond and carry out Jesus’ Great Commission. The plan is to have the first meeting in October, 2025 with the goal of meeting twice a year in the Spring and Fall. All groups will come together to pray, meet in their small group, then share food and fellowship as each group reports on what their group is currently working on and has accomplished. The liaisons have been asked to bring the handout Fr. Aaron shared back to their individual commission for review and questions.

New Member Welcoming Committee:

- Maureen Riemer did not have a report at this time, but is working with Debbie Cottone to set up the Committee.

Hospitality Weekend Signup:

- March 1 & 2nd are available for signup. Pastoral Council has agreed to host. An email to HollyAnne is needed to announce the Hospitality weekend.

Friendly Reminder:

- Please forward your Commission Roster to Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary as soon as possible so we can update our records.

What are you hearing:

- Do we accept non-Catholics at St. Mary School? Yes, we are here for everyone.

Blessing: The meeting closed with a blessing

Submitted by: Caroline Schachtlie, Pastoral Council Secretary