

November 9th, 2025 Annual Meeting

Pastoral Council members present: Bryan Bichler, Kari Stone, Natalie Brochtrup, Leon Jacoby, Marilyn Sabec, Amy Schmit, Jennifer Schwab, Bobby Slocum, Lina Vorpahl

Finance Council members present: Bill Jensen, Gary Feider, Jennifer Schwab, Lina Vorpahl

Parish Staff in attendance: Deb Hamm, Terri Riesselmann

Welcome:

Bryan Bichler welcomed everyone at 9:25 and thanked everyone for attending.

Opening Prayer read by all at 9:25 - Prayer to St. Joseph

Introduction of staff, parish and finance members.

The Faith Formation Committee with Terri Riesselmann:

Their mission is to oversee the **faith formation programs** for all members of the parish.

- Enrollment: 130 students and 82 families registered in our Cluster Faith Formation Program.
- K5-6th grade classes are at Divine Savior on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 and 7th - Confirmation from 6:30-7:45
- 8 First Communion, 11 school students from DSCS. First Communion at Holy Cross is the last Sunday in April and at OLL first Sunday in May
- Confirmation is May 17th at 2pm with Bishop Haines
- Retreat at Holy Hill for Confirmation
- We meet in the church before class with the rosary being prayed 15 minutes before the start of classes and offer that week's rosary on behalf of intentions submitted by the families.
- We have Eucharistic Adoration with the students 3 times this year, so that the students can spend a longer time in adoration without taking away from too many classroom times. Bryan Bichler talked with the students at the first one sharing his personal experience with Adoration.
- 2 retreats for the youth this year – today with a speaker and another in February with a Lenten theme.
- Opportunities for kids to go to confession. Next one will be November 19th.
- Family Faith Formation 3x for each of the older and younger kids. One was to kick off the year, another in November with a Thanksgiving theme and the 4th Wednesday in January will be with the Archbishop.
- Mission Trip: This year we are going to Knoxville TN in June. We have 19 students and 5 chaperones going, with room for 1 more. Kids 7th to high school welcome to attend.
- VBS this summer at OLL this summer using the program we had purchased for last year, looking for more help, with providing Mission Trip and VBS, we need more volunteers.

Parish Director Report with Deb Hamm:

Thanked all the staff, lay ministers.

Still looking for an Outreach Coordinator, the one we had offered a job to had taken another job. Please pray for a good quality candidate.

Audio system has been upgraded. We are still waiting for the speakers in the choir.

Still working on a bid for safety cameras for church, parish center and office.

Marriages in our church are increasing

Younger families at church attendance are improving

Increased servers' group and could use more. First Communion through adult are eligible to volunteer.

Recently received \$10,000 grant from the Love One Another Campaign, part of that will pay for the retreat speaker today.

Encourage all to inform yourself of things happening in the parish, read the bulletin, read the emails, stay informed.

RCIA for adults is now OCIA, same thing, working with 2 candidates who want to become Catholic. 4 welcomed to church last year.

Census with Bryan Bichler:

- 440 Families - 955 individual members.
- 245 Families contributed in 2024.

The Finance Council with Bill Jensen:

Finance Council focuses on the financial needs of our parish and includes the important task of maintaining our properties and facilities.

Bill discussed the Annual Report in more detail.

- Front sheet is a snapshot of the Financial Position.
- Highlights: Top block of numbers – started with \$1.3 million in cash and liquid assets at beginning of fiscal year and it went up to 1.5 million, a \$200K positive variance. Overall, very healthy balance sheet.
- Page 1 is a breakdown of assets, the majority are invested at Collins State Bank or RW Baird. Conservatively managed and provided a steady income over the years.
- Next page is profit/loss – revenue was much higher than budgeted and expenses were lower because of Outreach Coordinator position looking to fill.
- Great year, very solid.
- Last page shows the Love One Another Campaign funding and how we are using the funds.

Bryan Bichler gave an update on Building and Grounds: This committee reports to the Finance Council. Bryan shared that the parking lot looks wonderful and the sound system is amazing. He also gave a very big thanks to Merlin Depies! He does a fantastic job and is always available when anyone calls or needs him.

Pastoral Council Committees:

The Human Concerns committee with Suzanne Biedenbender:

Mission is to serve the **poor**, the **hungry** and **those in need** within our community.

The Human Concerns committee usually meets every other month on the first Tuesday of the month. Currently we have 10 committee members.

- **Hygiene Bags for St. Bens & Sheboygan County** – During Lent we collected hygiene products for St. Bens in Milwaukee and for the Sheboygan County needy. We now share this project with our St. Vincent DePaul Society, who help the needy in Sheboygan County.
- **Blood Drives** – Every year we hold 2 blood drives for the American Red Cross. In April we collected 33 units of blood and in Oct. we collected 42 units of blood. We always have successful drives.
- **Eternal Life Tree** – To coincide with All Souls' Day, the Eternal Life Tree is setup on the Mary's altar to remember our deceased relatives & friends. Parishioners are encouraged to put pictures or memorial cards on the tree and it remains up thru the month of November. This is now a cluster event with both parishes having an Eternal Life Tree, a sign with the parishioners' names listed and vigil lights lit before the main altar. The names of the deceased were listed on the cover of the bulletin and read before all the Masses on Nov. 1/2.
- **St. Nicholas Stockings** – We will again be putting together a Christmas stocking to be given out on St. Nicholas Day to each resident at Gables of the Pond and our homebound parishioners. Next Sunday we will hand out a list of suggested items to parishioners who want to be a Secret Santa for one resident at Gables. Deb Hamm has made all the stockings. Items need to be returned by Nov. 30th. The committee will then assemble the stockings and add a "Blessings from St. Nicholas" greeting to each stocking and get them to Gables for St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6th.
- **Advent Projects** – During Advent we will again have a Giving Tree in church. We are collecting items for Divine Savior school, the Food Pantry and Mary's Room in Sheboygan.

- **Greeting Cards** – Every year we remember our homebound parishioners and those in assisted care by sending out Easter and Christmas cards.

The **Prayer and Worship committee with Pam Barton (standing in for Pam Huiras):**

Mission is to **enhance our liturgical celebrations** and to provide opportunities to **deepen our prayer and faith lives**.

The Prayer & Worship committee provides many opportunities for our parishioners to receive God's grace and grow in holiness. We are made up of members representing sacristans, servers, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, decorating and music. We meet four times a year on the first Monday at 6:30 pm.

Our goals are:

~ *to nourish & give direction to the liturgical aspects in the parish*

~ *to provide opportunities for parishioners to deepen their faith through a variety of prayer experiences & liturgical celebrations, especially the Sunday Mass*

~ *to assist in promoting the spiritual growth of parishioners to aid in their call to holiness*

~ *to maintain an ongoing training program for all our liturgical ministers*

- **Mass Ministries** – Our mass ministries always need more people. We currently have 8 servers, 14 ushers, 14 Eucharistic Ministers, and 10 lectors. Our choir is always looking for new members. If you know of anyone who might be interested in one of the ministries, please encourage them to call the office and get involved.
- **Cluster Reconciliation** – This was another change we implemented. We now call this night an **Encounter Night**. It will be on December 2nd from 6:30-8:00 at Holy Cross and the Lenten one will be at OLL. It is a night of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and intermittent praise music. It leaves you with a more intimate encounter with Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We added a 3rd Encounter during the Easter Season with Adoration and praise music only.
- **Christmas mass** schedule is the same as last year. OLL will have the Christmas Day mass because of the yearly rotation with Divine Savior.
- **Joint Cluster Prayer and Worship meeting** with DSCS is twice a year and we go over the Liturgical year together and share any new ideas. Meeting dates and times are listed in the bulletin and monthly calendar. Anyone is welcome to attend!

St. Vincent de Paul Conference with Judy Hoepfner:

Some highlights of the differences that we made in the past year reflect on the 3 Pillars – Spirituality, Service and Friendship:

Spirituality:

- Monthly meetings are the 3rd Tuesdays of the month with prayer and scripture or religious literature
- We pray before each visit to those in need and
- We pray with people in need at the end of each visit
- We attend masses together, Jesus is the focus

Service:

- Assisted 1,473 people
 - 44 home visits
 - 7 visits at the library and 5 people visited in prison
 - 1,386 people visited in assisted living or nursing homes
 - 31 people visited by telephone
- Paid \$2,663 in water, gas and electric bills for people in need
- Paid \$9,110 in rent for people in need
- Distributed vouchers to the SVdP store
 - \$405 redeemed for clothing
 - \$178 redeemed for furniture
 - \$86 redeemed for household items
- Volunteered 1,026 hours to help those in need

Friendship

- Drove 5,358 miles together to serve others

- Shared family stories
- Participated in the Walk-for-the-Poor together
- Our group visits together during hospitality gatherings after Sunday Mass

Topics to be Referred to Pastoral Council or Finance Council:

If there are any items you would like to refer to the Pastoral or Finance Council, feel free to reach out to Deb, Bryan or Bill anytime.

Bryan closed the meeting with a thank you to our Parish Staff, Employees and many Volunteers. Encouraged members to get involved. Be better evangelists with Catholic church. Be unashamed to be who we are as Catholics and Christians.

Meeting concluded at 10:00 with a Veterans Day prayer.