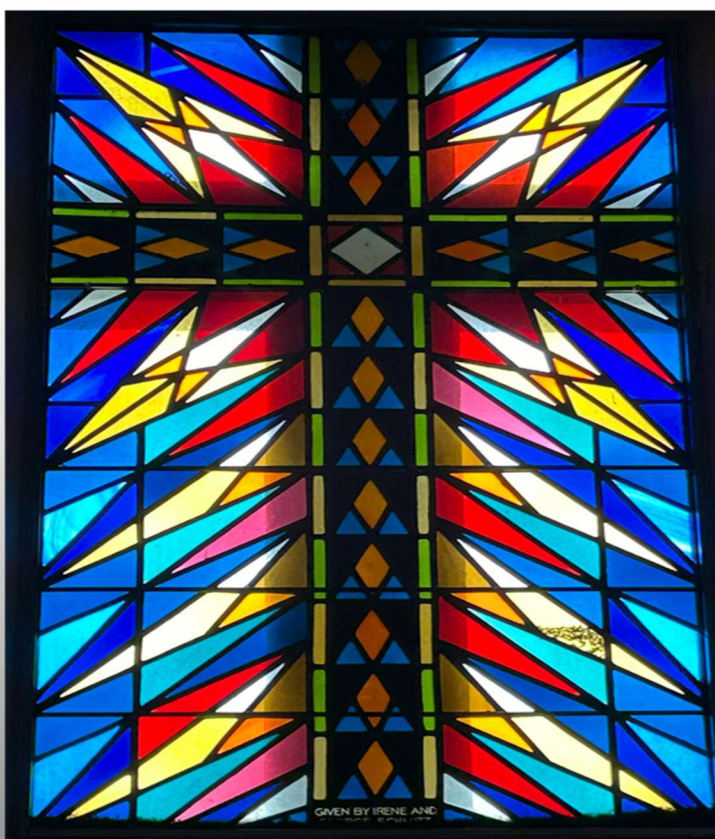




# STELLA MARIS PARISH

OUR LADY "STAR OF THE SEA"



ANNUAL REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2025

**Stella Maris Parish**  
**Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025**  
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**STELLA MARIS PARISH**  
OUR LADY "STAR OF THE SEA"™

Main Office  
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Egg Harbor, NJ 08209-0049  
(920) 868-3241

September 3, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Stella Maris:

I am pleased to report that our Parish continued to thrive during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Having taken several steps to control operating expenses, we finished the fiscal year with an operating surplus.

And our strong balance sheet and prudent savings have enabled us to embark on several crucial projects required for the upkeep of our church buildings and other facilities.

As always, I am so grateful for the devotion and expertise of our many Parish volunteers. Without your efforts we would not be able to offer Sacraments every day of the week and celebrate up to six Masses each weekend at our various worship sites.

We continue also to develop as Disciples. We held our fourth Entrust retreat at Baileys Harbor on June 8 and 9 of this year. And several of our clergy (including myself) and parishioners were among the 60,000 who attended the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

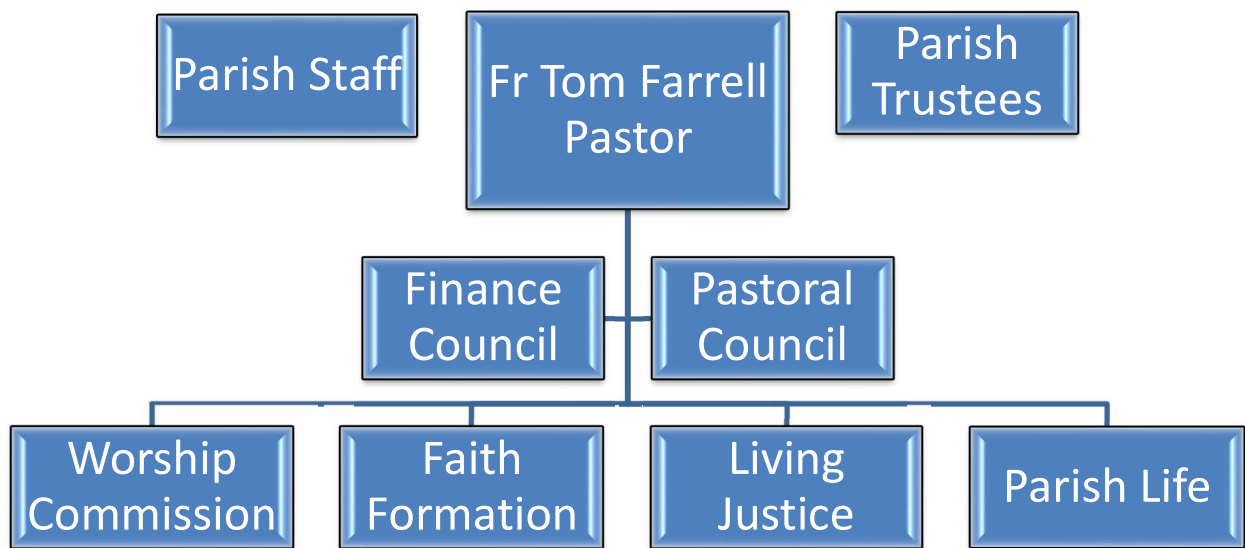
Most importantly, we should remember always that at each of our worship sites – our five churches and Washington Island – there is a tabernacle in which the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus awaits us. Whatever challenges we may face in life, we can be secure and confident in the knowledge that He is truly present for us here at Stella Maris.

Thank you, everyone, for all that you do for this wonderful Parish, our broader community, and one another.

Yours in Christ,

Father Thomas J. Farrell  
Pastor, Stella Maris Parish

# Stella Maris Parish Organizational Chart



**Stella Maris Parish**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenses**  
**Fiscal year Ending June 30**

<b>Operating Revenue and Expense:</b>	<b><u>FY 2025</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2024</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2023</u></b>
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Parish Support	837,659	806,886	759,549
Rental Income	4,695	1,700	1,800
Fees, Stipends, Bulletin, Other	20,618	24,815	32,835
Forgiveness of PPP Loan/ERC Credit			77,739
Unrestricted Donations	103,777	37,056	56,439
Restricted Income for Capital Outlay <b>Note 1</b>		71,638	84,468
Restricted Contributions	26,590	14,369	8,790
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b><u>993,339</u></b>	<b><u>956,463</u></b>	<b><u>1,021,620</u></b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Compensation	444,302	433,862	398,416
Payroll Taxes, Health Insurance, Benefits	162,809	144,374	142,297
Utilities	50,687	47,297	55,593
Bldg. Supplies, Services, Rent	72,124	77,260	77,548
Capital Expenditures <b>Note 1</b>		92,781	157,247
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	3,714	2,524	2,765
Insurance	32,508	29,824	25,434
Diocesan Assessments	31,160	31,372	30,037
Liturgy, Worship, Music, Faith Formation	83,524	61,679	60,546
Admin & General	52,810	58,240	61,411
Committees, Grants, Other	24,665	26,289	25,439
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b><u>958,303</u></b>	<b><u>1,005,501</u></b>	<b><u>1,036,733</u></b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b><u>35,036</u></b>	<b><u>(49,038)</u></b>	<b><u>(15,113)</u></b>
<b>Other Revenue and Expense:</b>			
Restricted Income Reserved for Capital Outlay <b>Note 1</b>	11,599		
Investment Income (Loss)	6,735	13,612	19,302
Unrealized Investment Income(Loss)	88,633	72,113	56,893
Cemetery Revenue	34,555	20,135	48,000
Cemetery Investment Income (Loss)	3,989	9,015	4,183
Cemetery Expenses	(13,843)	(17,584)	(23,037)
<b>Net Revenue (Combined)</b>	<b><u>166,704</u></b>	<b><u>48,254</u></b>	<b><u>90,228</u></b>

Notes:

**(1) Capital Expenditures** are now funded from reserves rather than operating revenue and revenue reserved for capital outlay is recorded as other revenue (not operating revenue)

**Stella Maris Parish**  
**Comparative Balance Sheets (as of June 30)**

<b>ASSETS:</b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
<b>Cash:</b>			
Cash On Hand	303	280	70
Cash in Bank-Checking	34,389	44,106	103,697
Cash in Bank-Money Market Account	95,559	109,073	62,548
Cash in Bank-Service Org	15,224	10,609	10,401
Cash in Bank-Cemetery	37,038	45,488	46,854
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b><u>182,513</u></b>	<b><u>209,557</u></b>	<b><u>223,570</u></b>
<b>Investments:</b>			
Investments (Cemetery)	251,626	227,088	197,048
Investments (General Fund)	1,075,603	924,373	838,786
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b><u>1,327,229</u></b>	<b><u>1,151,461</u></b>	<b><u>1,035,834</u></b>
<b>Other Current Assets:</b>			
Prepays	54,113	2,118	2,609
Accounts Receivable (Cemetery)	2,950	-	-
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b><u>57,063</u></b>	<b><u>2,118</u></b>	<b><u>2,609</u></b>
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Land & Improvements	269,706	269,706	269,706
Bldgs. & Improvements	6,600,188	6,593,754	6,500,973
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	562,157	556,243	556,243
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b><u>7,432,051</u></b>	<b><u>7,419,703</u></b>	<b><u>7,326,922</u></b>
<b>Other Assets:</b>			
Star of the Sea Endowment	1,978,059	1,683,154	1,296,935
one by One Funds	79,833	16,180	25,774
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>11,056,748</u></b>	<b><u>10,482,173</u></b>	<b><u>9,911,644</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE:</b>			
<b>Current and Other Liabilities:</b>			
Payables	14,907	9,671	5,648
Service Organization Funds	15,224	10,609	10,401
Funds held for Others	15,291	7,697	10,205
Deferred Revenue & Support	81,025	68,561	35,313
<b>Total Current and Other Liabilities</b>	<b><u>126,447</u></b>	<b><u>96,538</u></b>	<b><u>61,567</u></b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities:</b>			
one by One Funds	79,833	16,180	25,774
Perm Restricted Endowment	1,978,059	1,683,154	1,296,935
Perm Restricted Cemetery PC	211,287	190,459	163,810
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b><u>2,269,179</u></b>	<b><u>1,889,793</u></b>	<b><u>1,486,519</u></b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>8,661,122</u></b>	<b><u>8,495,843</u></b>	<b><u>8,363,558</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>11,056,748</u></b>	<b><u>10,482,173</u></b>	<b><u>9,911,644</u></b>

## **Stella Maris Parish**

### **Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**

#### **Group Name: Pastoral Council**

**Members:** Tom Polacek (Chair), Lori Carlson (Faith Formation), Jan Liss (Living Justice), Kathy Wolff (Worship), Deacon Kurt Grube, Jim Schorer, Mike Collom, Mike Trebotich, Deacon Tony Abts, Diane Kahlscheuer, Angela Packard (Trustee), Eric Gale (Trustee), Garey Bies (Trustee), Fr Tom Farrell and Larry Leporte (Business Administrator).

**Role (Purpose):** The role of the Pastoral Council (PC) is, through ongoing pastoral planning and communication, to maintain the integrity of the parish mission and goals and objectives related to it. Additionally, the role of the PC includes being the “eyes and ears” of our pastor, i.e. keeping up on happenings in the parish and being available to advise the pastor as needed.

#### **Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2025:**

- Recruited a chairperson
- Jan Liss and Becky Nash filled the Living Justice Commission’s position
- Recruited one new member to the Pastoral Council
- Planned and conducted our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual leadership group conference focusing on mission planning and communication within our parish’s leadership.
- Recruited a team and planned the parish’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Researched and scheduled a studio to create a parish directory

#### **Goals for next year:**

- Recruit additional Pastoral Council members to fill the current open seats and welcome their views and ideas.
- Create and maintain a parish leadership directory including contact information.
- Review the Parish Life ministry make-up and find a representative for this commission.
- Continue to assess and build on the successes of our Mission Planning effort
- Take the time to celebrate and recognize the successes of the past 20 years

**Our Challenge:** Each year for the past couple of years we have had more than 30 new members join our parish. Many are coming here to retire and have been in various churches and witnessed beautiful traditions throughout their working years. Our challenge is to figure out how to connect with these folks and have them contribute some of their time and talent to help our parish be the best it can be.

## **Stella Maris Parish**

### **Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**

#### **Group Name: Finance Council**

**Members:** Darryl Draeger (Chair), Father Tom Farrell (Pastor), Garey Bies (Trustee Treasurer), Hal Dieterle, Terry McArdle, Rick Ripley, Larry Leporte (staff liaison - Business Administrator), and Laura Paider (staff liaison – Bookkeeper).

**Role (Purpose):** The role of the Finance Council (FC) is (i) to review monthly managerial financial reports with staff, (ii) to provide pertinent advice to staff in relation to Parish financial matters, (iii) review and recommend new or amended financial policies as presented by the Parish Business Administrator and/or as developed by the FC or a subcommittee; (iv) to review reports from subcommittees and make recommendations to the Parish Business Administrator and/or the relevant subcommittee, (v) take an active role in reviewing and assisting the Parish Business Administrator in the development of the annual operating budget and the capital expenditure budget.

#### **Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2025:**

- Provided assistant to the Business Administrator in developing the first balanced operating budget in several years for the 2025-26 fiscal year
- Worked closely with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to develop and recommend significant capital projects for the 2025-26 fiscal year
- Reviewed and incorporated the first 5 years of an extensive 30-year reserve study done by the Parish Business Administrator to help make sound decisions on capital projects
- Assisted with, reviewed, and recommended several financial policies brought to the FC by the Parish Business Administrator to improve Parish financial management

#### **Goals for next year:**

- Continue to support efforts to match operating revenue with operating expenses so as to avoid operating deficits
- Review and support capital projects and provide advice and recommendations in relation to their funding
- Develop procedures for the coordination of all Parish fundraising efforts, in accordance with the responsibility that the Diocese has conferred on finance councils
- Continue to support and assist the Pastor and Parish staff in relation to financial matters



**Stella Maris Parish**  
**Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**

**Commission or Committee Name:** Stewardship Committee

**Committee Names and Members:** Tom Polacek (Chairperson, July-Oct.), Jim Stangle (Chairperson, Oct.-Dec.), Bernie Freeman (Chairperson, Jan.-present), Mark Loper, Jody Weitman, (staff liaisons-Larry Leporte and Laura Paider). Members “Little Bit” LeClair, Michael Smith and Jim Stangle withdrew from this Committee.

**Committee Role (Purpose):** To foster an attitude of Stewardship as a way of life built on Prayer, Service and Sharing that strengthens our church community and brings people closer to Christ.

**Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2025:**

- Planned and organized Stella Maris’ “Volunteer Appreciation Celebration” held in September which incorporated the Parish Annual Meeting. It was a well-attended and successful evening.
- Initiated the “Spotlight On Parish Ministries” column in the parish bulletin featuring a different Parish ministry each week written by an active volunteer in that ministry.
- Revised the “Time & Talent” Volunteer Form in order to capture current contact information for all year-round, seasonal, adult and youth volunteers. Also updated the “Ministry Opportunities Directory” and posted it on the parish website.
- Conducted the annual “Service & Sharing” appeal with the new materials which resulted in successful returns, new volunteers and timely contacts.

**Goals for next year:**

- Recruit and welcome new Stewardship Committee members.
- Explore opportunities for the Stewardship Committee to interact with new residents of the community when they register as parishioners of Stella Maris.
- Be involved in conversations regarding any design changes to the Parish website that might impact Stewardship materials and the easier navigation of those items.
- Participate in Parish events that increase Stella Maris’ visibility in the community.

**Our Story:**

Over the past few years, the Stewardship Committee has strengthened its focus on “involvement”. We not only strive to bring better awareness of the many volunteer opportunities within the Parish that can benefit from the talents of our parishioners, but we are also mindful that the sharing of one’s time, talents and resources should extend beyond our Parish community and be a natural part of our daily lives, one that follows the teachings and way of Jesus.

## **Stella Maris Parish**

### **Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**

#### **Group Name: Star of the Sea Endowment Advisory Team**

**Members:** Peg Berezewski, Bernie Freeman, Jim Frings, Chuck Germain, Mark Loper, Terry McArdle, Joe Miller, Tom Polacek, Shirley Raasch, Bob Ross, Jim Stangle, Garey Bies, Larry Le Porte (Staff liaison)

**Advisory Team's Role (Purpose):** The parish's Endowment provides a wonderful opportunity for people connected with this parish to make a legacy gift that assures the parish's worship, liturgy and music ministry is ongoing.

#### **Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2025:**

- At June 30, 2025 the endowment fund balance was \$1,978,059, an increase of \$294,905 including contributions and investment earnings.
- Sent each new endowment donor a timely "thank you" note with a token of appreciation on behalf of the parish.
- Prepared and sent an annual report to all endowment contributors.
- Raised interest through a variety of messages in the weekly parish bulletin.
- Declined taking an annual distribution for the 8th consecutive year.

#### **Challenges and goals for next year:**

- Research and contact new potential donors and tell our story.
- Revising our promotional materials and bulletin messages.
- Establishing and applying guidelines for endowment distributions.
- Energizing our Advisory Team members to dream up and implement new ideas to promote the endowment going forward.

#### **Endowment Story:**

Stella Maris Parish traces its history back nearly 150 years to when the first Catholic Church was built in Baileys Harbor in 1874. Throughout the history of our parish, numerous families have made sacrifices that have enabled Catholics who come to northern Door County to worship.

**It's our turn now** to do something today that will ensure that there will always be a Catholic presence in northern Door County to serve our residents and the many visitors who choose to spend time here.

**Stella Maris Parish**  
**Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**  
**Report of the Cemetery Board**

**Commission / Committee Members:** Mike Orthober (Chair and Sexton), Lorie Orthober (Secretary), Pat Conlon, Shirley Raasch, John Sawyer, Mary Corriveau, Jim Charles (staff liaison – Maintenance Director), Larry Leporte (staff liaison – Business Administrator)

**Commission / Committee Role (Purpose):**

“Because of our belief not only in the immortality of the soul, but also in the resurrection of the body, the Church professes hope in the face of death, and acts with charity in the funeral rites. The Church provides a number of [prayers](#) for the faithful to offer both to accompany the dying of a loved one and to strengthen our faith upon their death. Through private prayer and public [funeral rites](#), we strengthen our faith and hope, comfort those who mourn, and bury the bodily remains of the deceased with care befitting what was the Temple of the Holy Spirit.”  
(USCCB)

The Stella Maris Cemetery Board advises the pastor in all matters pertaining to the provision a dignified resting place for the faithful departed in accordance with the *Diocesan Regulations and Guidelines*, *The Code of Canon Law* and the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

Stella Maris Catholic Parish operates four cemetery sites:

- St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Egg Harbor, WI
- St. Mary of the Lake Cemetery, Baileys Harbor, WI
- St. Michael Cemetery, Jacksonport, WI
- St. Rosalia Cemetery, Sister Bay, WI

**Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2025:**

- Provided 11 burials
- Sold 17 burial plots.
- Recorded and maintained all sales of burial sites and updated maps.
- Continued maintenance at all cemetery sites.

## **Stella Maris Parish**

### **Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**

**Council or Commission Name:** Worship Commission

**Commission (Committee Names and Members):** Fr. Tom Farrell, Deacon Tony Abts, Connie Brandt, Lynn and Mike Collom, Sharon Fitzgerald, Mary Comoll, Marilyn Holland, Diane Kahlscheuer, Larry Leporte, Mickie Mostardi, Shirley Raasch, Kathy Wolff

**Commission / Committee Role (Purpose):** The Worship Commission provides for the spiritual development of members of the parish through liturgical celebrations, significant prayer experiences, and spiritual growth programs. The “Worship and Spiritual Life Commission” organizes the liturgical ministries at all sites and plans parish wide liturgies. The Committee’s work also involves ensuring that all liturgical norms are implemented, overseeing the worship calendar, recruiting, training, and scheduling volunteers.

#### **Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2025**

- Thanks to the efforts of our Business Manager, liturgical ministers now receive “Worship Notes” that contain information about weekend masses.
- Worship Committee published a flyer of Lenten Worship, Events, and Activities.
- Lynn and Mike Collom became the parish’s musicians, and the parish again has a choir.

#### **Goals for next year:**

- Hold a FAMily after one of our Sunday masses to welcome and get to know volunteers who have recently become Liturgical ministers.
- Publish a flyer of Advent Worship events and activities.
- Work with the Safety Committee to ensure that the ushers’ training is up to date.
- Preview weekly and holy day readings between Worship meetings to better facilitate coordination of art and environment and music.
- Consider writing informational articles in the bulletin to explain and publicize significant prayer experiences like Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, Reconciliation, Holy Hour, and Rosary.
- Recruit and train additional sacristans and altar servers.
- Continue discussing this question: “How does the work of the Worship Commission bring people to Christ?”
- Determine whether previously held prayer experiences like Taizé or Lessons and Carols would appeal to current parishioners.

- Institute an annual parish celebration of the feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea on September 27 going forward.

**Our Story:** The material that follows comes from articles written by liturgical ministers and published in the Stella Maris bulletin in FY 2024. All remarks are used with permission.

- From a Sacristan who is a member of Prayer Vine :“The only requirement [for this ministry] is a heart open to those in need of prayer....In our personal ways we ask God for His will to provide comfort, healing, mercy; whatever aid is needed for any life challenge the individual may have.”
- From a Sacristan who is also a reader and server: “I love being a Sacristan!” I arrive at church early. It is so quiet...just me and Jesus in there!” “I bless myself, unlock the doors, turn on the lights and silently pray.”
- From a Lector: “A few years ago I decided to attend 8:00 mass during Lent. When Lent was over, I discovered that I really enjoyed attending Thursday morning mass, so I continued doing so. A few months later, a parishioner on the Parish board asked me if I would be a Reader on Thursday mornings. I had no reason to decline. It had become my favorite day to see my church family. I also extended to Sunday. Through the Holy Spirit’s guidance, I expanded my personal reading of Scripture to a daily basis and not only in preparation for Mass.”
- From a Musician: “At Stella Maris Parish, we have a dedicated team of parishioners who use their gifts at mass to lead the congregation through music. For many of us, this has been a lifelong ministry. Cantors, small groups, and the Stella Maris choir work hard to give glory to God. Behind the scenes we meet to select music for each liturgical season with a mix of contemporary and traditional music. Our Stella Maris Music Ministry mission is to engage our congregations in worship through music. Music is one of God’s great gifts!”
- From an Usher: “as we welcome parishioners and visitors into our churches, we convey our joy that they are joining us in prayer at Stella Maris. We seek to foster an atmosphere of reverence so that all who attend our masses will be able to become closer to Jesus through their experience of the Scriptures, the homily, the music, and the warmth of the Stella Maris community.”

## **Stella Maris Parish**

### **Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**

**Council or Commission Name:** Living Justice Commission

**Commission (Committee Names and Members):**

CARE 24/7 Food Pantry volunteers: Dave & Vonnie Callsen, Tony Gischia, Mary Gomoll, Peggy Graceffi, Nancy Grube, Grace Held, Tom Holland, Vonnie Jandrain, Jerry Krebs, Wayne and Julie Kudick, Jan Liss, Luke McCormick, Mary Kate McCormick, Jan & Lynn Malchow, Karen Mehigan, Ryan Miller, Jerry Mudrock, Tom & Honore Rentmeester, Donna & Roger Rice, Mary White

Christian Service and Responsibility members (CSR): Dave Callsen, Pat Glen, Jan Liss, Becky Nash, Kristy Nelson, Tom O'Grady, Jeanne Rabel

Prayer Shawl members: Abigail Ahrens, Peggy Bussalacchi, Lori Carlson, Joyce Charney, Linda Cummer, Kim Elkins, Bernie Freeman, Sharon Fitzgerald, Patricia Fonk, Carol Franke, Mary Heinrichs Diane Kelnhofer, Mettie Lautenbach, Mary Loper, Dianna Moser, Elaine Mulligan, Michelle Mostardi, Mary Olson, Lorie Orthober, Maggie TerHorst, Dorothy Tevoert, Dixie Van Vorous, and Ann Wertz

Respect Life: Shirley Raasch, Jan Protz

St Vincent de Paul: Deacon Tony Abts, Greg and Peg Berezewski, Garey Bies, Jim Boatman, Sharon Brabson, , Chris Carlson, Karen Dickman, Bruce and Clare DuMontier, Marian Frigo, Jerry Krebs, Mary McCormack, Joe Megan, Elaine & Tom Mulligan, Jan and Tom Myers, Kristy Nelson, Jane Paley, Cindy & Pete Passuntino, Mary Seeberg, Mary Tall, Ara Torres, Tammy Vanderlinden, Doug Wheaton and Mary Zeller.

**Commission / Committee Role (Purpose):** The Living Justice Commission, comprising five independently operating committees, works to promote Christ's message of love and compassion by encouraging parishioner involvement in charity, pastoral care, and social justice activities within and beyond the parish.

**Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2024:**

**CARE 24/7 Food Pantry-Jan Liss, contact person**

- Food pantry maintains enough loyal volunteers and subs ensuring daily pantry restocking. The Sufficient funds in the pantry treasury allow for food product purchases as needed.

- Both food and monetary contributions are consistently donated to the pantry by both parishioners and non-parishioners

**Christian Service and Responsibility members (CSR)-Jan Liss, chair**

- CSR had terrific parishioner participation in our annual Box of Joy, Toys for Kids, and Boy's and Girl's Club of Door County collections.
- CSR was able to, with parish funding and some additional donations, allocate nearly \$20,000 to many county agencies and non-profits.
- Along with other northern Door churches, CSR recruited ample volunteers to provide meals for the Habitat for Humanity build crew in sister Bay as well as some parishioners working with the build crew.

**Prayer Shawl- Dixie Van Vorous, chair**

- Created and delivered 31 shawls
- Appreciated the \$300 from the parish used to purchase yarn and a supply of gift bags, get well cards, and tissue paper for the shawl/lapghan delivery.

**Respect Life-Shirley Raasch, contact person**

- Continued to 'Break the Silence' by sharing educational pieces with parishioners and visitors through the weekly bulletin inserts and monthly articles on pro-life issues, and USCCB pro-life quotes.
- Through the bulletin we also bring awareness of critical pro-life issues to the parish and support local and national pro-life activities.
- Delivered large print Readers Digest to residents at Serenity Springs (formerly Scandia Village)

**St. Vincent de Paul-Tom Mulligan, President**

- St Vincent de Paul made 150 home visits, dispersing \$54,000 in the last year
- Previously part of the Green Bay District, last summer, along with St. Joseph Parish in Sturgeon Bay and St. Mary's Parish in Algoma, the Stella Maris SVdP formed the new Lighthouse District.
- Held a successful, annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run, which serves as the main fundraiser.

In late summer 2024, **Conversation Partners** made the decision to conclude its ministry due to a decline in partner participation. However, the program's materials have continued to be utilized at St. Paul's Parish in Valparaiso, Indiana. Last summer Conversation Partners was included in the parish stewardship campaign, and an interested visitor from St. Paul's reached out to Becky Nash for further information regarding the parish ESL program. As the decision to sunset had already been made, Becky provided the individual with information, resources and instructional materials previously used in the program.



In February, Becky received feedback from St. Paul's stating: "Our students are thriving on your materials and books. We are so grateful for your expertise and the materials. We currently have three people who have completed and passed the citizenship exam. They are able to speak, understand, write, and read because of the materials you gave to us. Thank you again for being our mentor."

#### **Goals for next year:**

##### **Pantry-**

- Continuing to increase engagement with our pantry users
- Encourage parish-wide support of the pantry
- Ensure a steady crew of volunteers for stocking and care of the pantry
- Maintain a healthy treasury balance for needed food purchases

##### **CSR-**

- Encourage parishioner engagement in the parish and community through our various collections (Box of Joy Toys for Kids, Boys & Girls Club).
- Continuing financial support of county agencies and non-profits supporting those in need.
- Promote jail ministry as a need in our community

##### **Prayer Shawl-**

- Find out in a timely fashion parishioners or others who are ill or in need of a shawl
- Ensure adequate completed items are always available
- Knitting/crocheting baby hats for the Christ Child Society of Door County

##### **Respect Life-**

- Re-address our volunteer participation at Serenity Springs (formerly Scandia Village) which lapsed due to COVID: Specifically: Explore facilitating digital communication between residents and their out-of-area families and discuss resuming an End-of-Life ministry serving and praying with those in their final hours.
- Promote awareness of the Memorials to the Unborn which are located at each cemetery. We hope to showcase the memorials at the parish anniversary celebration in September.
- Continue with timely and pertinent monthly bulletin articles

##### **St Vincent de Paul-**

- Hold a successful Friends of the Poor Walk/Run

- Continue collaboration with St. Joseph Parish in Sturgeon Bay and St. Mary's Parish in Algoma in the new Lighthouse District
- Restart the practice of gifting prayer cards to those we visit
- Begin wellness check in calls following visits

**Our Story:** From conversations with our pantry users, to collections and funds donated to county agencies and non-profits, to shawls given to those in need, to educating parishioners on pro-life issues, to support at Scandia Village and meeting with families in need of financial assistance Christ message of love and compassion is being spread beyond our parish doors meeting our parish Mission Planning goals of evangelization/building connections and community engagement.

## **Stella Maris Parish**

### **Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)**

**Commission Name:** Faith Formation Commission

**Commission:** Deacon Tony Abts (OCIA), Angela Packard (Youth Faith Formation), Sharon Brabson (Adult Faith Formation), Sylvia Kostyuk (Bible Study), Jerry Krebs (Book Club).

**Commission / Committee Role (Purpose):** The Education Commission is focused on helping our parish to know, love and serve God. We do this through providing educational opportunities for the youth through catechists who share God's love and the teachings of the Catholic Faith in a weekly family-oriented setting. We provide the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), through which interested adults can explore and encounter Jesus and become practitioners of the Catholic faith. The Adult Faith Formation Committee supports the parish through helping all grow in the knowledge of our faith, liturgical life, prayer, missionary spirit and fellowship. Opportunities are open to the parish to study scripture, increase knowledge of Lent and advent, and grow our capacity for evangelization. The Bible Study Group uses scripture and prayer to share personal experiences and the joy of the Word. The Book Group reads and discusses books in light of our Catholic faith offering an opportunity, through our religious beliefs to see God's grace working in each other.

#### **Successes, accomplishments in Fiscal 2025:**

- Completed year 2 of Family Catechesis.
- 5 children received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- Held 3, one day retreats, one for Confirmation, one for First Reconciliation and one for First Holy Eucharist.
- Added a Faith Formation Speaker Series after the Loaves and Fishes free community meal.
- Developed a working relationship with St. John Bosco Catholic School.
- Youth and adults participated in the 2025 Walk to Mary.
- Formed small groups for a deeper dive into Advent and Lent.
- Continue to deliver Entrust Alumni sessions quarterly and offer at least one Entrust retreat weekend.
- Hosted a "Spiritual Gifts" workshop.
- Delivered a Women's Morning of Reflection.
- Continued to support ecumenism through a joint meeting with Shepard of the Bay.

**Goals for next year:**

- Enlarge the Sunday After Mass Family Catechesis to include all interested adults.
- Engage more families in catechetical opportunities.
- Join with Sturgeon Bay churches for a joint Confirmation.
- Continue to encourage families to enroll in St John Bosco Catholic School.
- Continue with year 3 of Family Catechesis on Pillar 3, Our Life in Christ.
- Support and deliver the formation of small groups for Advent and Lent.
- Introduce more small group book studies oriented towards Faith Formation.
- Bring a wider variety of Catholic speakers to our parish.
- Continue to offer additional resources in support of the Eucharist.
- Read and discuss 12 new books.

**Our Story:**

We strive to support all our parishioners and guests on their faith journey as they grow in their relationship with Christ. We walk together on this journey encouraging families to learn together in our youth faith formation. We support adults through RCIA to deepen their knowledge of Jesus and love the church He has formed. We work to support our Universal Church through staying informed on Synodality and the Eucharistic revival and provide our parishioners with opportunities to deepen their abilities and comfort with evangelization. Through our monthly Book Club meetings we provide an opportunity to delve more deeply into our faith through the discussion of fiction and nonfiction literature. Through these discussions we participate in each other's faith journey.

Mass Attendance and Parish Census

By Fiscal Year

Year	Census	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
FY 2016	683	8786	8650	5529	4970	2925	3072	2104	2206	2483	2252	4876	5688	53541
FY 2017	690	11078	6646	5561	5525	2139	2367	2152	1916	1910	3502	4493	5383	52672
FY 2018	598	10816	7308	6107	4929	2173	3077	1591	1851	2144	2305	4065	5894	52260
FY 2019	595	9365	7467	6127	4042	2034	3178	1841	1487	2161	2751	3904	6746	51103
FY 2020	590	8022	7918	5404	4126	2570	2848	1821	2120	927	0	0	992	36748
FY 2021	586	1768	2115	1892	1593	961	1199	974	851	953	1792	2788	3600	20486
FY 2022	540	5318	4435	3264	3601	1661	1820	1506	1304	1297	2386	2420	3841	32853
FY 2023	600	6870	4316	3716	3844	1860	2141	1730	1671	1356	2841	3357	4150	37852
FY 2024	606	7868	5386	4527	3933	1936	3145	1333	1779	2312	1917	3717	5254	43107
FY 2025	582	5641	5891	4711	3547	2228	3202	1684	1526	2165	2626	3720	4796	41737
FY 2026	604	6111												

By Calendar Year

Year	Census	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
2015	683	2084	1922	2172	3112	5005	5865	8786	8650	5529	4970	2925	3072	54092
2016	690	2104	2206	2483	2252	4876	5688	11078	6646	5561	5525	2139	2367	52925
2017	598	2152	1916	1910	3502	4493	5383	10816	7308	6107	4929	2173	3077	53766
2018	595	1591	1851	2144	2305	4065	5894	9365	7467	6127	4042	2034	3178	50063
2019	590	1841	1487	2161	2751	3904	6746	8022	7918	5404	4126	2570	2848	49778
2020	586	1821	2120	927	0	0	992	1768	2115	1892	1593	961	1199	15388
2021	540	974	851	953	1792	2788	3600	5318	4435	3264	3601	1661	1820	31057
2022	600	1506	1304	1297	2386	2420	3841	6870	4316	3716	3844	1860	2141	35501
2023	606	1730	1671	1356	2841	3357	4150	7868	5386	4527	3933	1936	3145	41900
2024	582	1333	1779	2312	1917	3717	5254	5641	5891	4711	3547	2228	3202	41532
2025	604	1684	1526	2165	2626	3720	4796	6111						22628

**Stella Maris Catholic Parish**  
**Contributions Analysis 2024-25 Fiscal Year**

**Parish Support by Fiscal Year, 2020-2025:**

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Parish Support</b>	\$ 615,929	\$ 605,610	\$ 685,841	\$ 759,549	\$ 806,886	\$ 837,659
<b>Year over Year Change \$</b>	\$ (30,594)	\$ (10,319)	\$ 80,231	\$ 73,708	\$ 47,337	\$ 30,773
<b>Year over Year Change %</b>	-4.73%	-1.68%	13.25%	10.75%	6.23%	3.81%

**Contributions by Range (FY 2025):**

<u>Range</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Num Contributors</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Registered Zero Contributors	\$0.00	0.00%	257	24.78%
Non Registered Contributions	\$210989.00	28.23%	431	41.56%
1-99	\$1159.00	0.16%	23	2.22%
100-200	\$5075.00	0.68%	34	3.28%
201-300	\$7250.00	0.97%	27	2.60%
301-400	\$4370.00	0.58%	12	1.16%
401-500	\$11068.00	1.48%	24	2.31%
501-750	\$19384.00	2.59%	32	3.09%
751-1000	\$31136.00	4.17%	35	3.38%
1001-1500	\$71438.67	9.56%	57	5.50%
1501-2500	\$96869.00	12.96%	48	4.63%
2501-5000	\$132694.00	17.76%	40	3.86%
5001-9999.99	\$83640.00	11.19%	12	1.16%
10000 & Above	\$72249.77	9.67%	5	0.48%
	<b>\$747322.44</b>		<b>1037</b>	

Note: The total of the contributions set out in this analysis does not include anonymous contributions such as loose cash given in the offertory.

**Sacraments and Funerals**  
**Stella Maris Catholic Parish, Door County**  
**Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025**

<b>Infant Baptisms</b>	4
<b>Adult Initiation</b> (includes Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist over age 7)	6
<b>Received into Full Communion (OCIA)</b> (Received into the Church during the year, but baptized in another Christian tradition)	1
<b>First Communions</b>	5
<b>Confirmations</b> (of youth who were baptized Catholic)	0
<b>Marriages</b> (includes non-Parishioners)	22
<b>Funerals</b>	14

## **Minutes of the Stella Maris Parish Annual Meeting** **Wednesday, September 18, 2024. 6pm, Sister Bay, WI**

### **Present:**

Fr. Tom Farrell, Deacon Tony Abts, Larry Leporte (Business Manager), Angela Packard (Secretary Trustee), Tom Polacek (Chair, Stewardship Committee), Rick Ripley (Chair, Finance Council), and 90 additional parishioners

### **Introductions:**

Tom Polacek, chair of the Stewardship Committee, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the volunteer celebration and annual meeting hosted by the Stewardship Committee and the parish leadership. He indicated that there are over 600 units in our parish and over half are volunteering in ways other than financial.

### **Opening Prayer:**

Father Tom led us in a prayer of Thanksgiving for our parish, parishioners, St. Vincent De Paul Society, the Food Pantry and all volunteers helping our people who continue to struggle.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Tom Polacek opened the meeting at 6pm and introduced Angela Packard, Secretary Trustee. Minutes from the Annual Meeting FY 2023 were reviewed and no revisions or changes needed. Bill Wolff motioned to approve the FY 2023 minutes. A second from Bernie Freeman. The minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting were approved.

### **Overview of Annual Report:**

Tom Polacek indicated that the Annual Report was available in physical form and on-line and that it contained all that happened in FY 2024 and how we were living out our mission. There were three major changes to the report from the previous year, the first being that there were more pictures and less words. The second was that the reports were written by each of the four commissions- Living Justice, Parish Life, Faith Formation, and Worship. And the third being that the data was consolidated and presented in a more concise manner.

### **Financial Report:**

Rick Ripley, Chair of the Finance Council, reviewed the Parish Statement of Revenues and Expenses. Total operating revenue was \$956,463. Total operating expense was \$1,005,501 (\$49,038 deficit), and the net combined revenue was \$48,254. He indicated that the parish has many buildings and grounds projects to be completed such as roofs and parking lots and the council has begun to talk of setting up a reserve account for those projects.

The One-By-One Campaign pushes money back into the parish and we received \$426,902 through FY 2024. The Diocese receives 1/3 of the full amount collected and the parish receives 2/3 which is split 1/3 to facilities and 2/3 to the Star of the Seas Endowment.

Stella Maris had a Bishops appeal goal of \$56,900 this past year. We exceeded that goal with a collection of \$93,500 and over \$18,000 was paid back to our parish.



All in all, Rick stated that our parish is in a good financial position due to our investments but we do have a lot of projects in the works over 5 sites and must keep that in mind.

Pastoral Council Report:

Tom Polacek gave the report, indicating that the pastoral council had lost 3 members and were actively seeking to recruit members to fill those seats. The council was moving toward being “mission-focused” rather than “maintenance-focused” and is moving forward with the three topics that were the focus of the May 2024 Leadership Planning Conference: Mission Planning, Strengthening Communications, and Sorting Priorities.

Pastor’s Report:

Father Tom began by thanking all those who attended the Eucharistic Minister trainings with Gerard Hall and all other volunteers dedicated to our parish. He spoke of the renovations at Egg Harbor and Jacksonport being complete and that we have at least one site that is open to the public on any given day. He referenced the third Entrust retreat held in June at Baileys Harbor, the upcoming Clergy Congress being held in Egg Harbor and the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis that he attended with some parish staff and deacons.

Father continues to hear confessions ½ hour before all weekend masses and have Adoration every Wednesday and on the third Thursday of the month, minister to Legatus, the Widows of Prayer, and the Missionaries of the Word.

The Missionaries of the Word are building a new convent, five hermitages for priests and a house of Fr. Tom to stay.

Father thanks everyone for their support.

Adjournment:

At 6:29pm the meeting was adjourned. Motion by Kriss Schorer, second by Joe Miller.

Closing Prayer:

Father closed the FY 2024 Annual Meeting with a prayer of Thanksgiving

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Packard  
Trustee Secretary



# STELLA MARIS PARISH

OUR LADY "STAR OF THE SEA"



## **Stella Maris Mission Statement**

*Stella Maris Catholic Parish prayerfully unites people in the love of Jesus  
guided by our patron, Mary.*

## **Stella Maris Vision Statement**

*We invite all to journey as disciples. By sharing the Gospel, responding to  
Jesus' love and the gifts God has given us, we welcome all to grow in faith and  
in our parish life.*