

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Pastoral Council Meeting – December 3, 2025

I. Opening

- Opening prayer (Fr. Tom) and call to order (Tom P.)

II. Attendance

Fr. Tom Farrell, Deacon Tony Abts, Deacon Kurt Grube (Zoom), Larry Leporte, Eric Gale, Tom Polacek, Mike Collom, Lori Carlson (Zoom), Diane, Jan

III. Approval of Prior Minutes

- Minutes approved as distributed with edits.

IV. Special Recognition

- Parish Endowment Advisory Team recognized for reaching **50% of the \$4M goal.**

Individuals who deserve special recognition are:

- 1) Bart Ahern
- 2) Peggy Berezewski
- 3) Garey Bies
- 4) Bernie Freeman
- 5) James Frings
- 6) Chuck Germain
- 7) Mark Kunstman
- 8) Mark Loper
- 9) Terence McArdle
- 10) Joseph Miller
- 11) Thomas Mulligan
- 12) Becky Nash
- 13) Tom Polacek
- 14) Shirley Raasch
- 15) Jim Stollenwerk
- 16) Walter Vail
- 17) Doug Van Vorous

V. Commission & Staff Updates

Worship (Mike Collom)

- Emphasis on **hospitality, hymns, and homilies.**
- Positive impact from Bishop Ricken's visit.
- Ecumenical remembrance service well attended.
- Needs identified: minister training (including dress), server/sacristan coverage at 6pm Mass, usher emergency training.
- Growing choir membership; need more cantors.
- Sister Bay designated as music storage hub.
- Technology assessment and future capital planning underway.

Living Justice (Jan)

- Food pantry well stocked; space constraints emerging.
- St. Vincent de Paul raised **\$38K** (fall drive); 28 visits in past two months.
- CSR donation protocol implemented (~\$7K pending).

Faith Formation (Lori Carlson / Deacon Tony)

- Lower-than-expected attendance at adoration event (noted scheduling conflicts).
- Advent and Lenten small groups planned; Pastoral Resource Center materials recommended.
- No Entrust this year, but diocese has come up with new follow-up program to Entrust and will try to secure this new program the following year.
- Men's leadership group ongoing.

Parish Life

- **No representative present**; council stressed urgency of filling this role.

Business Administration (Larry Leporte)

- Parish support tracking close to budget (2-3% behind expected in Nov).
 - Unrestricted donations up; operating near break-even.
 - Personnel expenses under budget.
 - Capital reserve down due to major projects (~\$117K).
 - Long-term (30-year) capital planning underway.
 - Parish-wide signage refresh planned (Jacksonport as model).
 - Endowment just under **\$1.9M**; ~3 months operating reserves available.
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VI. Strategic & Planning Discussion

Mission & Outreach

- Council emphasized ownership of **mission planning and discipleship**.
- Need stronger communication of parish impact to re-engage post-COVID community.
- Discussion on Fall Fest parking use: insurance, safeguards, and safety concerns remain unresolved.

Tactical Improvements Identified

1. **Leadership Directory**: Annual update of committee roles and contact info.
2. **Website**: Needs content refresh, clearer ownership, and regular updates; possible volunteer role.
3. **Parish Life Representation**: Immediate priority.

Financial & Mission Balance

- Discussion on parish tithing vs. balanced budget.
 - Possibility of using endowment earnings aligned with mission priorities.
 - Joint PC/Finance Council meeting to help guide future funding decisions.
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X. Upcoming Meetings

- Feb 4 @ 4pm

Adjournment

- Fr. Tom encouraged continued focus on **concise, mission-driven meetings** and then closed with a prayer.