

ST. MARY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

I. Attendance:

**Present:** Fr. Brian McGrath, Fr. Jacob Janczyk, Charles Houff, Richard Lacey, Erin Pollard, Bill Fiske, Chad Klapes, Zeke Chichester, Holly Cusack (ex officio), Leslee Durfee (ex officio).

**Absent:** Jesse Gallego

II. Fr. Jacob led an opening prayer. The group read the Mission Statement together. .

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III. The proposed minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

IV. The calendar was reviewed for upcoming important events. Fr. Brian shared the Spiritual Life calendar for everyone to review. Dates for next years meetings FY26 were Given o Erin to submit for the master calendar.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Building and Maintenance: report shared by Fr. Brian. for all to review. We reviewed Necessary and upcoming jobs. The cement/concrete work at SMC needs to be removed and replaced with a new cement pad.

St. Joseph's Cemetery : covered in buildings report.

Homebound Ministry: No new updates.

Youth and Young Family outreach: No new updates.

Health and Peace: No new updates.

Latinx Outreach: No new updates.

Time, Talent, Treasure: Erin and Chad want to hold TTT weekend on September 13 and 14th after each of the Masses, at the same time as coffee and donuts. We will need a speaker for each Mass and coordinate with St. Joseph's (Richard) and Otis. Leslee brought handouts and brochures which we will finalize. EM and Lector training should be scheduled for October, then we can have the dates available at the TTT weekend.

Murder Mystery Dinner: Bill. They are trying to finalize the food. Vivaldi's will probably not work out so they are considering the Locker Room for catering. They are also going to talk to Libby to see if she would like to cook or can give them advice on how much food to get and what items are available for our use in the storage area. Holly has paperwork for one day liquor license if we decide to have alcohol. Fr. Brian suggested a

50/50 raffle of door prizes.

Parish Council membership: Chris is in the process of moving to New York State and Carol is officially off of the Council as she is moving as well. April 5 is a going away party for Carol Lombardo. We will get a card and gift from Parish Council. Tom Burke from Otis would like to join Parish Council and is hoping to make the next meeting. We need to figure out music for Otis as well.

.VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Eucharistic procession planning: Ken H. was going to come tonight to discuss but could not make it. May have procession on Corpus Christi in June after 11 am Mass and walk around the block downtown. Ken will coordinate with the Knights of Columbus for volunteers. We will advertise as well and will need handheld sheets for prayers and songs. Fr. Gary may have an "umbrella" to carry over the Monstrance, we do not have one. We need to check the date with the Shrine to make sure we are not doubling up. Richard suggested Good Shepherd Sunday as an alternate date.

Walk with One: We had positive discussions regarding this last meeting. We need a point person. We could maybe launch over the summer or early fall, possibly coordinate With Time, Talent, Treasure weekend. We could have sign ups to pray for someone and handouts to give to people. We could shoot for concrete events for Advent. Erin and Fr. Brian will meet this summer to make concrete plans.

Beacon of Faith grants: We need someone to apply for these to expand Ministries or Create new Ministries.

Outreach: Chad. Chad and Leslee have looked at other Churches websites. They would Like to add photographs of the Staff and Ministry leaders to make it more personal. Biographies of our Priests would be nice as well. Chad will work on some mock-ups. Chad will check links on the site to see if they are active and accurate. We need to check if the active link on the website links to the current 4:00 Mass. Chad suggested adding clear/large buttons for people to access information.

Pro-Life Ministry: Chris Dutil has stepped down from being the head of the Ministry. She will still continue to do write-ups for the bulletin. Lori will help coordinate the Rosary before the 4 pm Masses. Fr. Brian suggested Lori try to find another Parishoner to take this over as she has a lot on her plate already.

Church Picnic: Lori would like to schedule a Parish Picnic in July or August. Fr. Brian suggested he start by talking to Libby to see if she will be able to spearhead this.

Food Pantry: moved to Housatonic Street due to downtown construction. There is now a drop off box at Berkshire Liquors next door. The weekly need has gone from 37 to 60 families. Lori states shelves are low. Fr. Brian suggested Lori doing a write-up for the

bulletin with the new location, hours, how to make a donation, and what items are most needed. We can put updates in the Time, Talent, and Treasure bulletin area.

Rita Perry passed away and the family is clearing out her house. Fr. Brian asked for suggestions for places the family can donate items to. We suggested Redfield House, New Directions, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Construct in Pittsfield and Great Barrington.

Erin would like to have a gathering for RCIA/OCIA graduates with simple food. Fr. Brian suggested May 18 after 11 am Mass at the Rectory or school if there are too many people for the rectory. Erin will talk to Marlene Morris (OCIA Coordinator) on Thursday.

-Fr. Brian said a closing prayer.

-The next meeting will be Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Erin Pollard