

COME TO THE WATER AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.  
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Alexandria

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts,  
that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call. **Ephesians 1: 17-18**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of the last meeting
  1. Minutes from 11/23/23 approved
3. Agenda additions
  1. Bev Paul has been appointed as trustee from Immaculate Conception Parish of Osakis. Confirmation from the Bishop's office is pending.
4. Individual Committee Highlights
  1. Eucharistic Congress – Jake
    1. As of today, we have only 10 of 60 total tickets bought by St. Mary Church sold to go to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. To make the trip feasible, we need to fill these extra spaces soon. We are looking for ways to continue marketing to our own parish and wondering if we should expand this to surrounding parishes or the whole diocese.
    2. Ideas for marketing include making a more personal push with our invitations. Consider a ministry moment at Mass, social media posts, more email blasts at the diocese level.
    3. Fr. Matthew has commissioned Josh Waltzing to give a ministry moment at this weekend's Masses (1/20, 1/21)
    4. Deadline for filling most tickets at the ACC level is the end of February. If not making much progress at that time, will open this up to the diocese and ask the chancery for extra help with marketing.
    5. If someone wants to go but cannot for monetary reasons, we will commit to financial assistance through Fr. Al scholarship or other revenue sources.
5. Parish Life Lenten Fish Fry – Mary
  1. Fish fry will happen at St. Mary Feb. 16, March 1, March 16
  2. St. Nicholas Feb. 23? Finalizing plans for this
  3. ICC March 8? Finalizing plans for this
  4. Leon Breun is the point person on this project.
6. Administrative Update
  - a. Election Discernment Process
    1. Plans are being finalized to nominate and elect pastoral council members. This process is anticipated to be started in March
    2. Elections are planned to be completed by late April in each parish
    3. St. Mary: Mary Gorghuber and Randy Kinney's tenure is ending

4. ICC: Terri Anderson will end her tenure
5. St. Nicholas: Margaret Zidon will end her tenure
6. Members of St. Mary's may not run for back to back terms
7. Members of ICC and St. Nicholas may serve in back to back terms.
- b. Lots of good information about the pastoral care coordinator position and the Director of Faith Formation position can be found in the bulletin from 1/14/24.
7. Pastor's Perspective
  - a. Presentation to the Bishop – Our ACC will present to the Bishop on February 28. Father Matthew has appointed 10 people to be a part of this group.
    1. There was a discussion of what has gone well and what we can keep improving upon in our ACC
      - a) Good: We have a good school, lots of opportunity to be involved, the Rural Life Celebration went well, involvement in community activities (Habitat for Humanity, Life Connections), 40 Hour Devotion, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.
      - b) Needs Improvement: Challenge of large parish (easy to be anonymous in a large parish), would like to expand Eucharistic Adoration. Can the diocese help foster programs and events to help our parishioners grow in relationship with Christ and have a deeper belief in the Eucharist? There is a perceived division among parishioners regarding changes that have occurred in the parishes.
  - b. Help needed - ACC Directory
    1. Need 3 volunteers for the ACC directory. Hope to start taking pictures in May. More information can be found in the bulletin. Margaret Zidon from St. Nicholas has volunteered.
  - c. Mass Times
    1. At our churches should we consider consolidating Mass times?
      1. a) This is not because we want to offer fewer Masses, but Fr. Matthew is envisioning all seats full with beautifully done Masses.
      - b) Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of fostering community with larger Mass attendance vs ensuring access to Mass/the Eucharist.
        1. No decisions were made regarding this.

## 8. Closing Prayer

### **ALL are invited.**

#### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

- Next ACC Meetings – Feb. 20 @ St. Nicholas; March 19 @ ICC; April 16 @ St. Mary's
- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024
- Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage, July 16-22, 2024

*Come Holy Spirit, help us "To build God's Church across generations by living the Eucharist."*