

**Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Held at Saint Nicholas Church, Belle River, Minnesota
October 22, 2024**

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Todd Wentworth, Tim Baas, Mike Ponicki, Veronica Haavig, Darcie Boogaard, Tonya Marthaler, Craig Highet, Bev Paul, Jake Mach, Adrian Panther, Rodney Roers, Leon Breun, Josh Waltzing, Mark Maloney, Francie Peterson and Carol Gaffaney.

Absent: Father Dan Ruprecht, Nathan Eisel and John Loomis.

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes from September 24, 2024 were approved.
3. Individual Standing Committee Reports were reviewed with the following additions:
 - Board of Education – Jake said the Board is looking into ways to raise funds to support the increased costs for this and next year’s budget. A marathon of service is planned for this month.
 - Cemetery –Rodney reported the clean-up day at St. Mary’s cemetery went well.
 - Finance Council – No report.
 - Liturgy – The committee reviewed the schedule for the year and they are working on their by-laws.
 - Parish Life – The New Member Welcome at St. Mary’s went well. The Angel Tree will be in place the weekend of December 7-8. A new chairperson is needed for the SM Parish Life Committee.
 - Stewardship – Bev said the Immaculate Conception Fall Thanksgiving potluck will be held November 17 after the 10:30 mass. A New Member Welcome will be held in conjunction with the KC breakfast on November 2nd. They are encouraging parishioners to sign up for the ACC email blast to get the latest news and information about activities. They are holding a bake sale for a family in the parish who had a barn fire. Veronica reported on the 40 Hour Devotion at Saint Nicholas was well attended. She suggested a change in the timing for the opening mass next year. A print of the Original Image of Divine Mercy is being delivered to Saint Nicholas. They will have a speaker Monday, November 11th at 7pm to explain the history and significance of Divine Mercy. Jake said the St. Mary’s Stewardship Committee is looking for a chair for the next Legacy Dinner. He also reported Stewardship renewal is wrapping up at St. Mary’s. Registration will begin soon for the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace series to be held in January.
 - Sanctity of Life Committee – Francie invited everyone to join the committee on November 4th. There will be a Power Hour for Life in the Adoration Chapel from 4:30-5:30pm, mass at 5:30 and then a 6:30 meeting in the school to learn about the group and Walking With Moms in Need.
4. Old Business
 - Celebrating Wins - Jake suggested the pastoral council members write thank you notes in recognition of people who have been involved in events, such as the 40 Hours Devotion and Chris Stefanick’s ReBoot presentation. It was suggested ACC pastoral council members write the thank you notes before the start of each monthly meeting. Jake and Father Matt will do the notes for 40 Hours Devotion and ReBoot.
 - Engagement Committee – There was discussion on reaching people who have stopped attending mass. Father Matthew had suggested an engagement committee, but after discussion, it was decided to put that on hold and ask parishioners to reach out to people they know who’ve stopping attending and let them know what’s going on in our parishes

and invite them back. We also need to include an effort to let new parishioners know about the activities and invite them to attend. Josh urged members to form the small study groups that Chris Stefanick encouraged using the free study group information he provided.

5. Administrative Update – Todd Wentworth

- Todd noted he will be working on hiring for three positions within the ACC:
 - Wedding Coordinator (ACC)
 - Communications Coordinator (ACC)
 - Staff Accountant (St. Mary's)

6. Pastor's Perspectives – Father Matthew

- Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Year of Hope. Father said he will be focusing on the message of being “responsible stewards of hope” and “responsibility.” What are we responsible for? To whom? Discussion followed on how we can become ministers of hope and how to institute this into our parishes.
- Father Dan Ruprecht will be leading a pilgrimage in March 2025 to several shrines in Wisconsin.
- All Saints Day masses (a holy day of obligation) are scheduled at all three parishes on November 1st. All Souls Day masses (not a holy day) are scheduled at SM and ICC.
- A Service of Remembrance for family and friends of people in the ACC who have passed away over the past year; it will be held Sunday, November 3rd, 4:30pm at Saint Mary's.
- A Men's Retreat Breakfast will be held Saturday, October 26th, 8:00am – Noon at Saint Mary's Church.

7. The next ACC pastoral council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 26th, 6:30 p.m. at the St. Mary's Church in Alexandria.