

**Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Held at Saint Mary's Church, Alexandria, Minnesota
November 26, 2024**

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

1. Opening prayer.
2. Minutes from October 22, 2024 were approved.
3. Individual Standing Committee Reports were reviewed with the following additions:
 - Board of Education – Jake said a sub-committee has been formed to address the philosophical difference of whether or not parishioners and non-parishioners should be paying the same tuition (technically, parishioners are likely to be paying more as a percentage of their regular sacrificial offering goes to the school). All three parishes are now using the Faith Formation program to an extent.
 - Cemetery – No report.
 - Finance Council – Mike said the Saint Nicholas church budget is on track. Nathan Hillmer is working on getting a written quote for steeple repair at Saint Nicholas. They discussed their “wish list.” Leon said the finances are looking good at St. Mary’s at this time. A 5-foot corpus has been approved for the crucifix; they are looking for someone to assist in hanging the crucifix in the church. They also discussed school tuition.
 - Liturgy – Darcie noted that ICC is looking at forming a Liturgy Committee. Mike reported they have been discussing musical area items, mass logistics, new albs, cleaning altar clothes, etc. Adrian said Luke VanOverbeke has set up training for EM captains, Sacristans, Lectors, and Ushers.
 - Parish Life – A new chairperson is needed for the St. Mary Parish Life Committee. They are planning another New Member Sunday and doing the Angel Tree again this year.
 - Stewardship – Darcie said the Immaculate Conception Fall Thanksgiving potluck and the New Member Welcome held in conjunction with the KC breakfast went well. They are holding another KC breakfast and New Member Welcome on December 1st. The Christian Mothers are doing St. Nick’s bags for the children in December. They will be doing Stewardship Renewal in January. Josh reminded members about the McGread conference in March and the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace series to be held in January.
 - Sanctity of Life Committee – Francie reported they had good attendance at their meeting November 4th. A bus has been arranged to go to the March for Life at the Capitol in January. They will also have 40 Days Novena information available.
4. Old Business
 - Celebrating Wins – Josh asked about any new “wins” or celebrations that should be acknowledged by pastoral council members. Several members wrote thank you notes which pastoral council members signed.
 - A December potluck for the ACC pastoral council will be held December 17th at the parish rectory. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
5. Administrative Update – Todd Wentworth

- Todd said Agreed Upon Procedures have been completed for Saint Mary's and Saint Nicholas. He thanked Mindy Wymore and Sharon Marthaler for their work on this. He noted they will get a report back from the Diocese on this work.
 - The Hospitality Desk at St. Mary's is looking for more volunteers. Would the Pastoral Council members consider signing up as this would be a good opportunity for them to meet and chat with parishioners and guests.
 - Update on the hiring process for three positions within the ACC:
 - ACC Wedding Coordinator – Todd said they are close to hiring a person.
 - ACC Communications Coordinator – Interviews are being held at this time.
 - St. Mary's Parish Accountant – Accepting interviews at this time.
 - Todd reported there will be a 14% increase in health insurance premiums in 2025.
6. Pastor's Perspectives – Father Matthew
- Father Matthew talked about the “All Things New” initiative, the next steps that the St. Cloud Diocese is taking in guiding change and restructuring in the diocese. More information can be found on the Diocese website under “All Things New,” in addition to a place to sign up for the newsletter and getting the “Guiding Change” document.
 - Adult & Teen Challenge in Alexandria held an Open House recently in their new facility. Father noted they need prayer group leaders and men to be mentors.
 - He explained the ministry to the homeless and to families in need which has been doing good work for people in need.
 - Father said we should continue to celebrate our successes and acknowledge people behind the scenes getting things done. He would like to collect pictures and stories of parishioners who have entered a religious vocation, are serving the church, and/or started programs or events that are helping people. A display could be put up in the church to acknowledge them and to inspire people.
 - After discussion on holding Fish Fries during Lent, it was decided to have two Fish Fries at each parish on a rotation schedule, 1st and 4th Friday, 2nd and 5th Friday, 3rd and 6th Friday.
7. The ACC Pastoral Council Christmas potluck will be held on Tuesday, December 17th, 6:00 p.m. at the parish rectory in Alexandria.