

**Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting  
Held at Saint Nicholas Church, Belle River, Minnesota  
February 25, 2025**

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

Absent: Father Matthew Kuhn Adrian Panther, Francie Peterson, and John Loomis.

1. Jake opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with prayer.
2. Minutes from January 28, 2025 were approved.
3. Individual Standing Committee Reports were reviewed with the following additions:
  1. Board of Education – Calendar Raffle ticket sales went well. Catholic Schools Week was recently celebrated. Kindergarten registration is currently underway. There is currently room for 9 more students. Discussion continued on setting the tuition for the next school year. The group decided to defer making the final decision until more information is known, possibly May, when the financial picture is clearer. A letter is being finalized that would be sent to the parents of students to keep them updated on the upcoming budgeting process and the possibility of an increase in tuition.
  2. Cemetery – No report.
  3. Finance Council – Leon said the financial picture at St. Mary’s is a little behind projections at this time. Health insurance rates went up 14% Jan 1 and they will see a similar increase next year. St. Mary’s will be supporting another Harvest Pack event with a goal of packing 75,000 meals at a cost of \$22,500, primarily coming out of our regular, sacrificial giving.
  4. Liturgy – Mike reported they reviewed special liturgy dates/celebrations in 2025 at their meeting. They will have a “push” for more people to sign up to help with ministries at Saint Nicholas. At St. Mary’s, they worked on upcoming special liturgies/events, such as Stations of the Cross and Living Stations. They are working on a process to purify vessels used in the masses at St. Mary’s.
  5. Parish Life – The Soup & Games Night at St. Mary’s went well; they are hoping to hold another event like that.
  6. Stewardship – Bev reported their group is reading the “Radical Hospitality” book. There will be a KC Breakfast after the 10:30 mass at ICC this coming Sunday. The KCs treated altar servers to pizza & bowling last Sunday. They are planning their Fish Fry that will be held at the VFW. They have people that will do Stations of the Cross, and will possibly have a soup supper the same evening. Veronica said their church joined with a church in Miltona to offer a soup dinner and served about 70 people. They are planning a Pancake Breakfast and other activities. Todd noted he has ordered tree seedlings to be distributed at the three parishes. Todd encouraged ACC pastoral council members to attend the Father McGread Conference in Wichita which will be held March 19-20. He noted that the ACC will pay for registration and travel costs for participants.
  7. JPIC – No report.
  8. Fish Fry Dates – After resolving a conflict, the schedule for Lenten Fish Fries is:
    - March 7 – Saint Nicholas
    - March 14 – Saint Nicholas
    - March 21 – St. Mary’s
    - March 28 – Immaculate Conception, held at VFW

- April 4 – St. Mary’s
- April 11 – St. Mary’s

4. Old Business

- Celebrating Wins – Thank you notes will be sent to Sue McCulloch (who has been involved with Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary’s for 21 years) and to the committee that worked on selecting a new crucifix at St. Mary’s.
- There was discussion on “How to be an Effective Pastoral Council” and re-starting the Evangelization Committee. It was the consensus of the pastoral council that this committee should be an ACC committee, not by individual parish. Fr. Matt gave his approval to restart this committee before leaving on sabbatical.

5. Administrative Update

- Todd introduced information on upcoming pastoral council elections at each parish. Jake Mach, Josh Waltzing, Tim Baas and Darcie Boogaard have completed their current three-year term. If a member wishes to serve another term, they can have their name placed in the nomination process. Todd asked for help at the masses on March 15 & 16 to introduce the process of nominating people to represent their parish on the pastoral council. Volunteers are:
  - Saturday, 5pm at SM: Jake
  - Sunday, 8am at SM: Rodney
  - Sunday, 10am at SM: Josh
  - Sunday, 8:30am at SN: Mike
  - Saturday, 4pm at ICC: Bev
  - Sunday, 10:30am at ICC: Tonya
- Todd reported that all approvals have been received for a new crucifix at St. Mary’s. The design that received the most votes has the light-color wood with a split wood design. Todd met with Luke VanOverbeke today and Luke will place the order.
- Todd said they are anticipating an 18% increase in the property insurance premium. He will be starting the budget process in March.

6. “All Things New” Initiative in the St. Cloud Diocese

- Our ACC’s “All Things New” Committee has been formed and will meet with other ACCs in our Deanery and diocesan representatives on March 22 in Kensington. Members of the Come to the Water committee are: Father Matthew, Father Dan, Todd Wentworth, Joe Korkowski, Luke VanOverbeke, Darcie Boogaard, Mike Helwig, Nate Hillmer, Tonya Beulke, Sharon Marthaler, Josh Waltzing, and Francie Peterson. Our Diocesan representatives for the deanery will be Brenda Kresky, Kristi Bivens and Christine Pinto.

7. Father Dan gave some history and information on “What is a Parish?” Discussion followed on the information and Canon Law references.

8. Bev suggested we add a prayer at our three parishes praying for the people of the ACC and the continued efforts to work together. Father Dan said a prayer could be added to the petitions.

9. Next meeting of the Come to the Water ACC pastoral council will be held Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Church. SM reps will meet at 6pm.