

Come to the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Church of St. Mary, Alexandria, MN
December 9, 2025

Present: Fr. Matthew Kuhn, Fr. Dan Ruprecht, Mark Maloney, Mike Ponicki, Leon Breun, Rodney Roers, Maria Lopau, Dan Eckstein, Adrian Panther, Josiah Aultman, Todd Wentworth, Darcy Thesing

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 for St. Mary's representatives and 6:30 pm for the full council.
2. Opening Prayer.
3. Meeting minutes from October 28, 2025, were approved.
4. Individual Standing Committee Reports were reviewed with the following additions:
 - Adoration- **(Josiah)** For perpetual adoration to be achieved we need time slots from midnight – 4am to be filled. A statue of Our Blessed Virgin Mary was brought in. Matthew added it would be nice to have the statue refurbished at some point and to find another true home for her or to incorporate her in with an updated display/ tabernacle in the Chapel down the road of course.
 - Board of Education- **(Maria)** reported the school will be receiving another combi-oven (provided by District 206). The veteran's program was amazing with 200+ attendees. Looking Ahead the next Eucharistic Congress will be 2029 details to come. **(Todd)** False alarm happened on campus and are working with alarm company. Special thanks to law enforcement for their prompt response.
 - Cemetery- **(Dan and Mike)** have no new updates
 - Evangelization- **(Rodney)** No meetings yet but looking to hit the ground running after the 1st of the year.
 - Finance- **(Leon)** Things look good even as things are up and down. A subcommittee of the Board of Ed and Finance Council is reviewing future school tuition options. **(ICC)** Budget is straight-lined and confident there is nothing to worry about regarding current shortfall in offerings. Received one quote for tuckpointing the bell tower of \$160,000, looking at additional quotes. Continuing to renovate the church and the old convent space. Listening to thoughts about how to best use that space. **(Mike)** Reviewed cash and investment balances. Had discussion about offerings being down a little from last year and to budget. Discussed the 2 roof bids and going to confirm with the initial lower one and get paperwork started. Discussed social outreach options and ongoing community dinners as well.

- Liturgy- **(Adrian)** Going over videos and the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM). Trying to get a quarterly meeting with Liturgy committees from each campus along with Parker. **(Bev)** Trying to coordinate better and getting more gift bearers to sign up, also training ushers. **(Mike)** Went over Liturgical music doctrinal accuracy, discussed idea of buying new cruets or cleaning the ones St. Nick's has. Discussed side altar candle glass color, blue is appropriate this time of year. Moving baptismal candle towards the font. Reviewed linen cleaning as to who is doing them. Training timeline for new sacristans and Mike shadowing for that, server training as well. Next steps for audio system crackling fix. Seem to be coming from 1 mic in particular.
- Parish Life- **(Bev)** Angel tree and November food drive was a success. K of C breakfast set for Jan. 4 at ICC.
- Stewardship- **(Josiah)** Ministry Fair a success with lots of positions filled. Legacy dinner attendance down a little but had good feedback and great speakers. **(Bev)** Ministry renewal planned for end of Jan-Feb. Discussed info to be provided in New Member welcome packet and how to welcome them. Plan to incorporate evangelization into stewardship.
- JPIC- The petitions submitted have been very good.

5. Old Business

- Thank you cards did not get sent out but need to add Kathy Langer and Fr. Craig to the recipient list.

6. Admin update (Todd)

- St. Mary's window project has been approved by finance council; need to work out details of how to best pay for it. Most of the payment would be after installation. We have little time to work out details. Tentative start date is Tuesday after Memorial Day and it will take 2-3 wks. Really need parish to make commitment for online giving. Looking for new votive candles for fire safety reasons. The plastic sleeve on the current candles can catch fire. New payroll system has been implemented, and we are recognizing time savings and other improvements. We are ready for the MN family paid leave law coming into effect Jan 1. Pensions for lay people under Christian Bothers are grossly underfunded. Todd was invited by diocesan staff to participate in the subcommittee that is working on a path forward. Multiple meetings every week. The subcommittee is working hard to focus on those in or close to retirement as they are the most affected. There will be multiple incremental phases moving forward over many months.

7. All Things New

- The ACC All Things New committee presented our plan to the Committee for the Affirmation of Plans (CAP). They have affirmed our plan. Brenda Kresky (Director of

Planning) said we can make public the ACC plan. While nothing is approved until the Bishop issues decrees, likely sometime in the late spring, we can move forward with certain elements of our plan.

- Our ACC is in a good position and fear of St. Mary's taking over are going away.
- The biggest challenge will be merging the parishes in 2028. We need to make sure that each parish's debts and maintenance issues have been dealt with accordingly.

8. Pastor's perspective

- Talk about Hispanic planning but as we have only 2% of our population being Hispanic this doesn't meet the 10% parameter established by the diocese. Also most that attend are bilingual and we have had other priests come in to assist as well.
- Need to contact those that are inactive.

9. Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:15 pm.

10. Next pastoral council meeting will be held on January 27th at 6:30pm in the basement at ICC (6:00pm for ICC representatives).