

**Good Shepherd Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**September 11, 2023 - 7:00 PM**  
**Mary of Magdala Chapel**



*“Good Shepherd is a Christian, caring community, nourished by a joyful spirit-filled liturgy, that inspires our daily lives. We strive to welcome, accept and love all people as they are, and through our ministries, reach out with active concern to those in need.”*

**2022/2023 Goal:** *“Work with Commissions, Staff, and parishioners, in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to implement actions surrounding the two focus areas of the strategic 3-5 year plan.”*  
*(1. More vibrant mass. 2. Attract more young families and involve more youth)*

August minutes were approved by consensus via e-mail)

**Attendance:** Deacon Sandy, Ryan Goss, Ron Leonhardt, Steve Grieb, Patrick Young, Nic Zepnick, Sheri Youngs, Lisa Nimmer, Bill Gaynor, Joan Plumley, Craig Tautges

**Opening Prayer** - Lisa Nimmer

**Pastoral Council Training Session** - Joan reported

- See the [Pastoral Council manual](#) for details.
  - Working on our Strategic Plan (3-5 year)
    - Presented by the Director of Missionary Planning and Leadership of the Archdiocese
  - Each council is required to have 2 parish council members to attend the Deanery meetings
    - Bill Gaynor has offered to attend those meetings with Lisa Nimmer
  - Energize Christ’s mission every day
  - Mission and leadership: Identity, evangelization, and stewardship
  - Pastoral Council: Christ’s mission is being set out and parishioners’ needs are being met. Engage in a continuous process planning and vision
    - Investigate, reflect and recommend
    - Leadership with a mission, vision and focus and setting SMART goals
- Questions:
- What would others say was the council's biggest accomplishment?
  - Inspire vision, be innovative and have faith.
  - Who are we not reaching? What should we be doing about that?
- **Structure:** of the council, who is involved, and the terms of the council.
    - Pastoral Council, Finance Council Deanery and others
  - Spouses may not be on the same council, parish staff members, with the exception of the pastor/parish director, can’t be on Pastoral or Finance council, except as non-voting members.

- Discussion: Some parishes are struggling to fill these roles and others are doing the role for many years.

### **Document Sharing Ideas for Pastoral Council** - All

- Discuss new ways to share and view Pastoral Council documents
  - Deacon Sandy: Recommended using the same document repository as staff. Suggested touching base with Bryan Ramsey and Marge Beck and get information about the parish platform. There is already a Pastoral Council group. Sandy showed Bill how to access and where to place documents.
  - Ryan Goss is starting the conversation with Bryan Ramsey. He will follow up with Bryan and update us next month.
  - Bryan can assist individuals in getting their password if they do not have one so all can have access to all the different groups on the website.

### **Parish Director Report** - Deacon Sandy

- Fr. Peter and help out priests post Fr. Tom
  - Fr. Tom will still be with us occasionally. He is just slowing down his schedule.
  - He is here with us at the end of October.
- Lots of positive trending (new member, Mass attendance, financials)
  - **New Members** (Over 70 YTD)
  - **Mass Attendance YTD**
    - 1,277 Jan Total Month [142 Avg per Mass for month]
    - 1,369 Feb Total Month [171 Avg per Mass for month]
    - 1,457 Mar Total Month [182 Avg per Mass for month]
    - 2,458 Apr Total Month [250 Avg per Mass for month] - Easter
    - 1,428 May Total Month [178 Avg per Mass for month]
    - 1,492 Jun Total Month [187 Avg per Mass for month]
    - 1,859 Jul Total Month [186 Avg per Mass for month]
    - 1,592 Aug Total Month [199 Avg per Mass for month]
    - 790 Sep Month TD [198 Avg per Mass for month]
      - Moving in a positive direction with attendance and new members.
  - **Financials**
    - Contributions up fiscal YTD (July to August) Expenses are up.
- Advent 2023 and Lent 2024: some seeds for themes and activities (These are Dcn. Sandy ideas and are not yet definite)
  - Eucharistic Revival...Real Presence
  - Holy Hour(s) For Life (Exposition and Benediction)
    - All life: From conception to natural death
    - During Lent, have one or two Expositions and Benedictions with an invitation to come and pray for life.
  - 2024 Parish Mission?
  - Advent Planning Meeting set for Sep 18
    - Weave in Eucharistic Revival... At Good Shepherd, "The Real Presence!" Possibly: Include St. James and St. Agnes to create and foster the mission.

- Reach out to Deacon Sandy, Marguerite, or Tim Ellinger to offer ideas or for information.
- Exit interview feedback with former Pastoral Council and Finance Council member

**Strategic Planning - All**

**P Strategic planning power point.pptx**

- How to determine if we are making progress in our goals
- Data to review (Mass numbers, new members, sacraments, etc....)
  - Goals: Should they stay the same?
  - What do we want to focus specifically on this year?
  - Other Ideas: Do we want to take ideas to the Commission? What about getting ideas and bringing them back to the Council?
    - Is this still working?
    - We are starting to gain traction and would like to continue that progress on moving forward and supporting what we have seen.
    - Choir is growing and thriving with great music.
    - Enthusiasm for Mass is growing because of the music at Mass.
    - How do you get more people to want to get involved?

**Commission/Committee Reports**

- Finance Council Update
  - They are working on the financials for the year ended.
  - There are corrections on the way things are to be done with the order of the financials.
  - It will make a lot more sense financially, and logically to parishioners
  - LOA funds: Conversation big focus on how these funds are being spent, and the accounting side of it.
  - Funds are actually being used for what they were intended to be used for as they are donated from parishioners.

Prayer and Worship Meeting tonight 9/11	<a href="#">Christian Formation</a>	Human Concerns
<a href="#">Stewardship</a>	Pastoral Care (Meets later on in the month!	

**APC Meeting Report -** Lisa Nimmer

- **APC**: Archdiocesan Pastoral Council met on Saturday, September 9
- Staff members from the Archdiocesan Office of Development and Stewardship presented.
- Stewardship appeal begins in February
- Plan on creating a video that will show how the money is used for next year.

- Parish Advocate: Haven't had one in several years. It would be great to find someone to advocate for this parish.
- 100% of Catholic Stewardship appeal goes to the programs that are offered to others in the Archdiocese.
- Report from Stewardship that talked about ways to get more people involved.
- Planned giving: 80% of most of the money comes from wills. It goes directly to the church and the program that you want it to go to if you choose to do so.
- Love One Another campaign was discussed.
- Deacons made an appeal: 22 men in formation and 11 are in their final years. 5 Men in the parish have been approached by Dcn. Sandy and are considering becoming deacons.
- Question: Are they looking to help support rural parishes?
  - A different number of priests will support the model of rural priests.
  - They are always willing to look at matching the best fit for each parish with the priest.

#### Items From the Floor:

- Pre-Mass: September 16 and 17 - **Saturday**: Lisa will check with Tammy. Ryan and Nic may be able to, if she cannot. **Sunday**: Bill Gaynor
- Bulletin Articles needed:
- Calendar for the Pastoral Council Year - Lisa will work on for next meeting
- Suggested Agenda Items for next month

#### Open Discussion: Report by Joan on discrimination issue in a Wausau school

- Racial Justice: Teen subjected to racial and homophobic slurs by a teacher
  - The Racial Justice Ministry Team wrote letters to the superintendent in support of the student, his family, and community.
  - Complaint was substantiated
  - District did not follow protocol
  - Teacher resigned, principal stepped down
  - Parents want an apology, and diversity training for the district, including students
  - Update on article in Milwaukee Journal regarding Wausau School District

#### Closing Prayer - Deacon Sandy

#### Next Meeting: October 2, 2023

#### Prayer Leader - Ryan Goss

#### Important Dates:

**Sept. 13, 20, 27 & Oct. 4 - 6:30 - 8:00 on Zoom** - Reset the Table: An introductory series on Racism, White Privilege, and Racial Justice

**September 16 & 17th, after Mass** - Fr. Tom "Thank You" Celebration

**September 29th, 5:30 - 9:00 @ St. Matthias Church** - Around the World Celebration

**October 6th @ Baird Center (formerly Wisconsin Center)** - 21st Annual Seminarian Dinner [www.sfs.edu/AnnualDinner](http://www.sfs.edu/AnnualDinner)

**October 31 All Souls Day Mass of Anticipation**

**December 3 First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 7 Immaculate Conception Mass of Anticipation**

**Agenda Items for next month:**

- Reset the Table: Starts on Wednesday