



ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

830 S. Westhaven Dr. | Oshkosh, WI 54904 | 920 233 8044 | raphael.org

Mission Statement:

As friends and followers of Jesus,
we are devoted to fostering households and communities of faith
through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church.

Parish Pastoral Council

Thursday, March 20, 2025 – 6:30 pm – Rooms 104-105-106

Minutes

Present: Kelsey Bahr, Dave Hetzel (trustee), Ed Jeziorny (trustee), Rick Panske, Kathy Saari, Tracy Slagter, John Thill, Jackie Trebiatowski, Fr. Tom Long, Fr. Ben Pribbenow

Excused: John Kubasta. Andrew Prust, Ben Sanderfoot

Opening Prayer – Lectio Divina

Approval of 1/16/25 Minutes – Ed approved, Kelsey seconded and Additions to the Agenda

Pastor Updates

- Accountant/Business Manager – Mark Lindekugel is retiring after 18 years end of June. He works 24 hours a week. 2/3 is accounting and 1/3 as assigned. Informing the parish in the bulletin this weekend.
 - Su van Houwelingen is the chair of the Finance Council and will work with Fr. Tom on hiring
- St. Jude – Sacred Heart location is removing Sacred Heart school and will be building an Adoration chapel where the school is currently located. It will cost ~ \$1 million paid by St. Jude.
- New Goal of Bishop Ricken – increase Mass attendance, reclaim Sunday
 - Recent Goals –
 - increase number of seminarians to 30 by fall 2025. Currently at 24.
 - Form and train at least a 1,000 Missionary Disciples measured by completing the Entrust Retreat. This has been met.
 - The new goal is focused on increasing Mass attendance and honoring Sunday

Communications & Relationships

- **New Parishioner Outreach** – cards and contact by Parish Council
 - Ben Sanderfoot made a “welcome” card which will be used by volunteers to send and welcome them.
 - Twice a year new parishioner dinner – it’s a week from Saturday after the Saturday night mass, March 29 6:00 pm. **Let Fr. Tom know if you’re able to attend**
 - Fr. Tom mentioned that it’s unusual how many additional new members recently and how often they are attending.
 - Need to keep connecting and connecting to other people. There’s an opportunity to connect further
 - Possibly find a common interest or work to do (i.e. Fish Fry)
 - Example: Andrew formed a motorcycling group

Parish Picture Directory

- Research underway. In touch with Jackie’s contact who does the year-book.

- Instant Church Directory – upload own picture
 - o Resurrection Parish in Green Bay did this and found it helpful and printed it.
 - Reviewed their site – the council had positive feedback
 - Cost is \$100 / year for the on-line service
 - Have the option of how much Personal Information to include

Stewardship

We still have a booklet of ~80 ways to get involved. This is given to each new parishioner. When Fr. Tom and Fr. Ben meet with the new families we discuss, they discuss this

- Once a year Cards used to be distributed with plans for the upcoming year – Fr. Tom’s experience with this approach is the process usually does not sustain itself for a number of reasons
- Jackie’s idea – taking out a form and sign-up with phones.
- Fr. Tom a few years ago we attempted to match interests / skills with Stewardship opportunities
- Operating Well: Fish Fry, Baking, Cleaning church, Candles, Volunteers for Donuts and Cookies, Sign-up Genius for Servers, Email for Ushers and respond to email to sign-up and Prayer Chain
 - o Opportunity – how do we continue to outreach?
- Stewardship area on the website
 - o Regular reminders at Mass

Membership of Council - terms

Who is up for renewal: Kathy (staying), John checking his schedule...getting his Masters, Tracy (staying)

Trustee position: Dave is finishing first two year term...needs to be elected so that’ll be happening

Lourdes update

Dave’s been on the board since September 2024

- Dave’s three kids went through Lourdes and been away for ~7 years and returning showed how many positive changes. President John Dinegan is very engaged and staff does great with faith formation. Financially is good with a strong reserve. Increased health costs through diocese expecting a >10% increase. A lot of excitement with Girls Basketball going to State – the coach Ally Starr led a rosary and a kid made the rosary with basketball beads. There’s an ELC (Early Learning Center) that’s been approved in the old Citizens First Building...Capital campaign will cover this and expansion of the Sports complexes (football, baseball, softball) is in a quiet period right now...this will be much more business sponsorship focused. 30% our church support (and MBS and St. Jude) goes to Lourdes and this represents ~ 20% of Lourdes revenue.

Other Business – ideas offered

- Life sized Cross, Crown of thorns, Height where Jesus was nailed to the cross and distance Jesus carried the cross, where He fell, met others, was joined by Simon of Cyrene
- Kind gesture: Birthday card this week to Gina in memory of her Mom who passed away in December
- Parishioner speaker Dr. Tim Jessick on Advanced Directives and value of the “Catholic Addendum”
- Enriching the name of “Lourdes” High School to be “Our Lady of Lourdes Academy”

Closing Prayer

Next meetings:

No April meeting – Have a joyous EASTER!

May 15 – Joint Meeting with Finance Council (later this date was changed)

No June meeting

August 21 – 6:30 pm