

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**



March 19, 2025

In-Person

6:00 – p.m.

Pastoral Council in Attendance: Deb Steppe (Parish Director), Mary Alston, Cory Anshus, Jackie Dombrowski, Terry Malloy, Pat McKay, Emerson Porter, Rebecca Porter, Judeen Schulte, Jim Stamatakos, Donna Van Wynsberghe (Chair), Christine Yatchak

Excused: Barb Webber, Cathy Markwiese, Denise Haussy, Lori Skeff

Prayer: Pat McKay – A Prayer for Compassion and Courage

Ice Breaker: “Two Lies and a Truth” Mary Alston and Pat McKay

Parish Director’s Report:

- We continue to grow, 7 new families this month.
- We have 6 OCIA candidates, 4 baptisms and 2 confirmations at the Easter Vigil.
- We have hired a liturgist, parishioner Jim Wielgosz, starting May 1st.
- We have chosen a company to handle the parking lot plantings.
- Mass attendance is up overall.
- The Archdiocese has asked parishes to help promote the seminary capital campaign. OLOL will be advertising the campaign before Mass and providing the congregation with donation information.
- The food pantry will start offering some fresh produce with some of the bequest money that was left to the food pantry.

Reports from Council Members Greeting and Listening after Masses Feb 22/23, 2025

- Rebecca Porter was asked Does the company temporarily using the southeast part of our parking lot pay to use this area of the parking lot?(Answer: no, we are just being good neighbors). Someone else asked why we list the donors of memorial donations? (Answer: It means a great deal to those donors. Naming them expresses the sentiments in their hearts as they memorialize their loved ones.)
- Pat McKay received mostly positive comments; one person mentioned she likes it when presiders introduce themselves and tell us a little about themselves. Someone else expressed concern about songs sung in weekend liturgy that are unfamiliar, wishing there was at least one familiar song at each Mass (Deb will pass this along to the music ministry).
- Judeen Schulte heard some concern about the 4 pm Mass (from someone who preferred the 5 pm time). It was suggested that we poll those who attend to see what they think. Deb will take this under advisement.
- Cory Anshus heard positive comments.
- Terry Malloy said he saw mostly smiling faces, and heard no complaints
- Jackie Dombrowski talked with one lady who is very concerned about the ushers: how they are recruited and to whom do they report- although she did not mention why she was concerned. Jackie also heard that someone likes when the presider introduces himself; someone else asked Jackie what is the difference between a disciple and an ambassador? (Reply: we are all disciples – the ambassadors are a special role at OLOL involved in welcoming new parishioners.)
- Jim Stamatakos was asked are bulletin inserts online? (Reply: Yes they are!)

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Spotlight articles update: Judeen Schulte – if your article will appear in a 6-page bulletin, you may have a 250-word Unsung Disciple article.

Reflections on the strengths of the parish through Committee Reports:

- **Social Justice:** All Saints Choir who performed here on Feb 28th, recorded the same concert at their own parish, and are making CDs available. Darry Morin will be speaking on immigration sometime in late April. There is a referendum appearing on the April 1 ballot regarding a Constitutional Amendment – keep in mind that the amendment does not change anything about the way elections are currently run. On April 26th GIFT will be helping to clean up Jackson Park in conjunction with the Social Justice Committee.
- **Discipleship Institute:** There is a very nice pamphlet that explains everything that the Discipleship Institute is offering this spring.
- **Liturgy:** Easter Vigil choir will have three rehearsals starting soon. It will follow the model used at Christmas (a special short-term commitment specifically for the Easter Vigil).
- **Formation:** Report will be emailed.
- **Youth Representative:** Emerson Porter commented briefly on the Confirmation program. He also commented on how impressed he was with the art in the hallways. He had several questions about the Suggestion Box at the west end of church...it needs some PR and maybe some paper and pencils. Emerson will write about the Suggestion Box for his Unsung Disciple article.
- **Marketing/Communication:** no report
- **Community Engagement** – no report

Dream Time: Discussion of previous “dreams” –

- This meeting is a safe place to think outside the box. We respect all thoughts and comments and maintain confidentiality as appropriate.
- Brief discussion of the Confirmation program as it now exists.

New Dreams:

- QR code or line in the bulletin about how to make a suggestion or contact us
- A Health and Safety Committee: We used to have a parish nurse; perhaps a volunteer committee could take this on.
- Adult Servers at every Mass. Deb would be willing to train people.

Next meeting: April 16, 2025

Opening prayer for April meeting: Jackie Dombrowski

Closing Prayer: Led by Deb Steppe.

**Respectfully submitted,
Cory Anshus**
