

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



May 20, 2026

In-Person

6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Council in Attendance: Cory Anshus, Jackie Dombrowski, Denise Haussy, Terry Malloy, Cathy Markwiese, Pat McKay, Emerson Porter, Rebecca Porter, Judeen Schulte, Jim Stamatakos, Deb Steppe, Donna Van Wynsberghe (Chair), Barb Webber, Christine Yatchak

Excused: Mary Botsford

Opening Prayer: Terry Malloy- Read and reflect on Psalm 30:5 and Colossians 3:15

Parish Director's Report:

- Deb Steppe is completing her third year as Parish Administrator. She met the Archbishop at a recent event and continues to have a good relationship with him. Seminary classes are getting smaller and graduating fewer priests. There are no indications that OLOL's situation as a parish with a Parish Director rather than a Pastor is under any scrutiny.
- OLOL's Wednesday Faith Group celebrated their 50th Anniversary last week. All our living former pastors were invited and attended. Members were very grateful for such a lovely celebration.
- On May 17, OLOL hosted a Common Ground listening session. Common Ground is a multi-racial, multi-faith, non-partisan organization driving change. OLOL received reservations for 24 people, 41 people attended. Several important concerns were raised: rising costs, safety, housing. The group will see where this goes. Deb Steppe asked about the fee structure for membership in the organization and it sounded like a sliding scale or negotiable. Someone from Common Ground will follow up with OLOL and other churches to suggest next steps.
- OLOL is working on the photo directory. Announcements will be made over the next few weeks inviting parishioners to register for photo appointments. There is a sheet in the lobby to sign up for an appointment.

New Business:

- Budget Review – Patricia Fabian and Jerry Beine
 - Over the last three years, Mass attendance is up. We average 100 more people per weekend.
 - Patricia continues to be impressed by the generosity of OLOL parishioners and how they step up and take ownership (through their donations etc.) of things that need to be attended to throughout the parish. Patricia also explained the role of the various members of the Finance Council and how they complement one another and work well together.
 - The 2026-2027 budget is one of growth; staff will receive a 2% raise; the Finance Council is also excited to report \$17,500 in investment income, a result of putting funds in some certificates of deposits. There is significant growth in the formation budget as Tanya has budgeted for more formation activities and plans such as the Youth Advisory Council, Men's Spirituality Group, planning for parish mission, etc. We have also received a Faith in Place grant (an environmental non-profit that works with communities of faith across Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities, see www.faihinplace.org) OLOL put together a proposal for an energy grant; our greatest need is the aged air conditioning units on the roof of our building – OLOL got a \$30,000 grant. Some of the factors that swayed the funder is our social justice emphasis as well as our community garden where we grow food for our own food pantry.
- Input from Pastoral Council's presence outside the church doors on May 2/3, 2026
 - 4:00 pm – Suggestions: introduce candidates at the Easter Vigil, offer an international trip, get prayer group that prays for the OCIA candidates together to talk about the efficacy of prayer and how they pray for the candidates. Someone asked if we could have an explanation of Mass parts (Deacon Bill did a GIFT session on this very topic last fall, which was recorded.)

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- 8:00 am – Suggestions: could we play recorded contemporary Christian music (like from the radio) at events or before Mass; complaints about construction on Forest Home; lots of gratitude for music, for liturgies; Welcome Weekend does not really have life; could we return to putting the Sunday readings in the bulletin, Can we cut the bushes lower so we can read the sign out front?
- 10:30 am – Suggestions: need more ushers to pass the donation baskets, need a head usher who can keep schedules; some think too much clapping, some appreciate the creativity in the liturgies; two people miss the original way of recognizing birthdays and anniversaries; need some volunteer training for working in the kitchen, particularly around washing the dishes.

New Leadership on Council:

- In September, Donna Van Wynsberghe will step down as chair after serving in the role for three years. Denise Haussy will take over the position.

Old Business: TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

- Archdiocesan Volunteer Video Discussion: Barb Webber
- Spotlight Articles: Judeen Schulte – We are set with writers through September, thanks to all for their contributions
- Children and Youth Subcommittee Resolution: deferred to June mtg.

Committee Reports:

- Social Justice-Pat McKay
 - We need help with the All Saints Meal Program this summer. There will be a flyer in the bulletin on June 7 explaining the need.
 - August 6 - Social Justice will hold a prayer service in memory of the Hiroshima bombing. It will take place in the garden at 6:30 pm. It was well attended last year.
 - The committee is researching Federal budget cuts that are coming which will affect refugees, immigrants, and other disadvantaged populations to determine what, if any action, we can take.
- Discipleship Institute- Minutes
- Formation
 - June 20 grades 4-6 game night;
 - GIFT is adding two gift session next year; theme for GIFT next year is “Walking in the Footsteps of Christ,” the season will have a Franciscan emphasis
- Finance-Rebecca Porter – handled by Patricia Fabian and Jerry Beine earlier in meeting
- Youth- Emerson Porter
 - “Change is not Compromise” from the Two Popes. Emerson offered that when watching the movie he thought of OLOL – While we are changing to embrace the times and to meet people where they are at, we do not compromise the traditions and history and rituals that make us who we are.
- Marketing and Communication -Jim Stamatakos- no report at this time

Dream Time: Comments mixed in with the earlier meeting.

Next meeting: June 17, 2026

Opening Prayer volunteer: Deb Steppe

Closing Prayer: Deb Steppe

Respectfully submitted, Cory Anshus