

## **9/23/25 Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council Meeting Agenda**

“...to be a Christ-centered radiant light and bold witness to those whose lives we touch...”

**In attendance:** Aimee Barrett, Mark Benmuvhar, Rich Blackford, Deacon Randy Howe, Susan Krieger, Marian McCord, Mary Ann McWilliams, Linda Telthorst, Wendy Franklin, Cindy Yamnitz

**Absent:** Fr. Steve Robeson, Ann Madden, Mark Inman, Vincenzo LiCavoli

**Guests:** Libby Long, MaryAnn Lause,

- **Opening Prayer** – Wendy Franklin
- **Review & Approve August Meeting Minutes** approved

- **New Business**

**Love Thy Neighbor Presentation and Discussion-Libby Long and MaryAnn Lause**

Libby gave a brief overview of her experience as our first parish nurse with issues of gay and transgender parishioners' close family members. She noted there was no real guidance from the Catholic church which she discussed with the current pastor, Fr. Reilly, and he said to treat them kindly. The Peace and Justice Ministry has been studying the issue of marginalized LGBTQ+ Catholics for over 2 years and developed the Love Thy Neighbor Ministry. Because of the sensitive topic, the ministry has contacted our southern vicar, Fr. Lydon and Archbishop Rozanski, and Fr. Steve, who are all supportive of their mission. The late Pope Francis and Pope Leo have encouraged Dr. Martin to continue his work in this area. The Ministry has plans to have a book study based on a book by Fr. James Martin, *Building a Bridge-How the Catholic Church and the LGBTQ+ Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity*. The books have a supplement that explains the official church teaching on homosexuality. We are the first parish in the southern vicariate to have a program addressing this topic. Other parishes in the archdiocese that do have programs are St. Cletus, St. Margaret of Scotland, and St. Cronan.

MaryAnn Lause gave a personal account of why she has joined the Love Thy Neighbor Committee. They plan to put up posters, bulletin notices, flock notes and will have a display at the Peace and Justice table at the Stewardship Weekend. Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month from 9:00-12:00 in classrooms 3 & 4.

They encouraged anyone who has questions be directed to send an email to [Lovethyneighbor@marymother.org](mailto:Lovethyneighbor@marymother.org). or direct them to talk directly to one of the committee members.

- **Follow-Up Discussion:**
  - **Update on Stewardship Weekend**-MaryAnn McWilliams reviewed details of the upcoming event this weekend. The new MMOC T-shirts have arrived and will be available for pickup at the event. All children will have a chance to win the kid's raffle basket. There will be a raffle for those who complete their attendance cards for each table. The prize for each mass is a large mum with gift certificates attached. (Gift certificates were donated by parishioners)
  - **Alpha Launch**-Randy spoke regarding the new Alpha Program for this fall. There will be several individualized programs:
    - Parents of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> have started Parent Alpha. There has been good attendance, with some challenges for the homeschooled parents.

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> start Youth Alpha on 10/06. There have been some parent discussions with Randy.
- The Young Adult Alpha began on 9/18/2025
- The High School Alpha will begin on 10/8/2025
- A parish-wide Alpha TBD

There are opportunities for parishioners to help in various ways with all these programs.  
See Signup Genius

- **Commission Reports:**

Mary Ann McWilliams reported that there have been 3 new parishioners due to the green Welcome pew cards that were implemented less than 3 months ago.

- **Chair Comments** – Maran McCord reported that a person approached her regarding any plans for Parish Council to consider security at all the masses, due to the recent shootings occurring in places of worship. Discussion ensued regarding what we can do to provide more security or provide more in the form of training or education. Marian will be looking into possible safety programs to offer parishioners. At this time, we are not aware of any directives from the archdiocese. Randy brought up that there needs to be more lighting outside the parish hall at the lower level.
- **Vice Chair Comments** – Mark Benmuvhar -no comments
- **Pastor Comments** – Father Steve was on vacation
- **What's the Buzz in the Neighborhood?**
- **Closing Prayer** – Wendy Franklin

## Next Meeting

- 10/28/25 - 7 - 9 pm in Rooms 3&4  
Opening/Closing Prayer – Cindy Yamnitz

## Upcoming Events

- 9/27 & 9/28 Stewardship Weekend
- 10/5/25 Pet Blessing
- 10/5/25 Pasta Dinner
- 10/25/25 PC Retreat Our Lady Catholic Church in Festus
- Holy Spirit Retreat for Confirmation Students and Parents

**Christian Service Commission**  
Report to Parish Council  
for September 23, 2025 PC Meeting

Notes from our **September 18, 2025** Christian Service Commission meeting

*The Mission of Mary, Mother of the Church, as a Christ-centered community, is to be a **radiant light** in the world and a **bold witness** to those whose lives we touch, inspiring them to love God and to love one another, as God loves us.*

**Present at meeting:** Susan Buerkle, Susan Krieger, Mary Lou Peters,  
Jeanne Schepers, Patricia Tobin

**Not Present:** Mary Factor, Lori Fick, Nancy Forsythe, Mark Fuller, Mike Jarvis,  
Becky McDonnell, Leicha Schepers, Jeanette Sloan, Sharon Von Ronzelen

Opening Prayer: Lectio Divina: *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (#135, Cycle C):  
The Gospel of Luke 16:1-13 or 10-13*

***Meeting Discussions:***

- 1) I asked our C.S. members if we could **change our meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday** of the month instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. *All responses indicated agreement with the change.* This meeting date change will begin **on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. This will provide more time between our C.S. Commission meeting and the Parish Council meeting; thus allowing more time for our meeting notes to be reviewed, updated if necessary, and approved prior to submitting them to the Council.
- 2) If anyone would be interested in helping, **Peace & Justice ministry is going to be making Sack Lunches for the Wellston Center** here at Mary Mother on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am until Noon (P&J indicated that this will be the *last* MMOC event for the Wellston Center.)
- 3) At our August Parish Council meeting, Marian McCord asked about the **Comfort Meals** for those who have recently come home from hospital or are recovering from an illness/injury. I reported that Lori Fick had previously mentioned at C.S. that the number of people who volunteer to provide these meals “has dwindled over the years”. It was suggested in the August PC meeting that perhaps the people who have volunteered to provide food for the Funeral Luncheons might be another source for these Comfort meals (I have personally heard from a few Funeral Luncheon volunteers that they very rarely get a call to provide food). ----During discussion at our September 18th CS meeting, it was brought up that there is also a need for Comfort meals to be provided for Mary Mother In-Home Care Givers (they are overwhelmed with all that they are doing for their loved ones). I am going to speak with Michelle Venable and Lori F. about this to gather more specifics about how Comfort Meals currently works. Ideally, in addition to those who normally provided Comfort Means, we could also leverage some of the 76 people who have volunteered to provide food for our Funeral Luncheons (Jeannette Sloan is going to check with them about being willing to be called on for Comfort Meals).

4) **Stewardship Weekend Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>:**

- Our *Christian Service Commission* “*catalog*”, which contains detailed information about our C.S. sub-committees, has been updated into a booklet format to use for both the Stewardship event *and* for the MMOC Welcome Basket.
- I purchased small cards with Bible verses on them to also use as ‘give away’ items at the Stewardship event. Any extra scripture cards will also be used to supplement items in the MMOC Welcome Basket.
- The C.S. tri-fold display board (provided by Ann G) from the *previous* Stewardship event is updated with *current* info. I gave the SVDP tri-fold board to Pat Wilson for he and Leicha Schepers to review and update if necessary.
- We will have flyers available for the “*From Hunger to Hope*” summit on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Lisa Roseland made a James II information display board, and also acquired James II informational flyers.

5) I received a request from Sue Fuchs asking that sandwich making resume here at Mary Mother. The Sandwich Shoppe (under Mike Jarvis) is now making sandwiches down at St. Anthony’s Food Pantry. Making sandwiches here at Mary Mother stopped during Covid, and has not resumed. Sue F. has had requests from several people wanting to make sandwiches here. I spoke with both Mike Jarvis and Rob Telthorst. They both indicated that they would welcome more sandwich contributions as they regularly run out down at St. Anthony’s. I am going to meet with Sue F. to discuss specifics of how many volunteers she has, when they would make them, donations of meat, bread and cheese. It would be best to coordinate/work with Rob and Mike to determine the best day to provide the extra sandwiches. (We also need to determine if we should purchase another meat slicer.)

**Other Updates/Sub Committee Reports:**

Susan Buerkle - ***Catholic Relief Services, Legislative Action:***

**Report:** Sue is currently working with the Archdiocese on the Rice Bowl plans for *next* year. The amount received this past Spring in the Archdiocese was reduced from previous years. This trend, coupled with the recession of funds at the national level, is prompting the need to encourage enhanced Archdiocesan Parish Participation.

**From last month:** *There will be a Food Insecurity Summit / “From Hunger to Hope; Feed My Lambs” on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at The Rigali Center.*

Mary Factor - ***Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU):***

**Report:** From *last* month, *Mary* is looking for someone to take over for her as she will be stepping down.

Lori Fick - ***Summer Food Drive, Christmas Food Drive, Comfort Meals:***

**Report:** We discussed Comfort Meals per 3) above (no report from Lori; she was not present).

Nancy Forsythe - ***Christmas Gift Drive:***

**Report:** Nancy plans to get the *Ornaments* out in the back of the church on the Christmas Trees on *November 15<sup>th</sup>*. She should be in touch with the Families with their needs from Terry either this month or early next month. (The Youth Christmas Sale will start the same November 15<sup>th</sup> weekend.).

Mark Fuller - ***The James II Project***: Mary Mother volunteers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

**Report:** On September 18<sup>th</sup>, there were 4 volunteers from Mary Mother and 4 from Our Lady in Festus. They served Lunch to approximately 40 clients at the Arnold Salvation Army location on Telegraph Road. (The James II project organization has also started serving Lunch in Arnold on Tuesdays, and on Mondays at a Methodist Church in Festus.)

Mike Jarvis - ***Sandwich Shoppes*** / Rob Telthorst - ***St. Anthony's Food Pantry***:

(Sandwich Shoppe meets and puts sandwiches together each Friday at St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry):

**Report:** See information in Meeting Discussion 5) above.

Becky McDonnell - Kids/Family Books for St. Anthony Food Pantry:

**Report:** Becky McDonnell reported that *the Books initiative is currently suspended as she has many books at this time.*

Jeanne Schepers - ***Peace & Justice***:

**Report:** at our meeting, Jeanne S. recapped the P&J minutes from *their* last meeting (these minutes will be published from Christian Formation).

Leicha Schepers - ***St. Vincent de Paul Society***:

**Report:** From *last* month: *There is going to be a "Friends of the Poor Walk" on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in Fenton Park at 8:30 (registration at 7:30 am; 1.5 mile walk).*

Jeanette Sloan - ***Funeral Luncheons***:

**Report:** From *last* month: Funeral Luncheons group has been restructured. They have created **two Teams of twelve luncheon Servers**. Additionally, they now have **two Co-Leaders** to help coordinate **each** Team. The new Team Co-Leaders are: Pat Echelmeyer & Lois Scully, and Barb Leveque & Mary Knoke. They also have 76 parishioners who have volunteers to donate food (Sides, Desserts, etc.). I recently asked Jeannette about asking the 76 who volunteered to provide food if they would be willing to receive requests for providing *Comfort Meals*.

Patricia Tobin - ***Bridge Bread***:

**Report: 2025 Bridge Bread Sales so far:**

Jan. - \$918.00; Feb. - \$1,005; Mar. - \$926; April - \$925; May - \$855; June - \$829;

July - \$912; Aug. - \$908; Sept. - \$932.

**Year-to-Date Total = \$8,210.00; Monthly Average = \$912.00.**

*Pat indicated that we are tracking about the same as 2024, even with inflation---Mary Mother is so generous!*

Sharon Van Ronzelen - ***Tithing***: **Report: From last month:** *There is going to be a "Meet and Greet" for the Recipients of our Tithing program. This will be held at Mary Mother on the weekend of November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*40 organizations were invited; so far, 15 have responded that they will be attending. There will be more information in Bulletins and on the Website.*

Reminders:

--Next Christian Service Commission Meeting: (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) **October 9, 2025 @ 2:30**

Submitted by: *Susan Krieger*, Chair

Christian Formation Commission  
Parish Council Report  
September Report  
9-23-2025

**Peace & Justice Committee**

Peace and Justice Ministry General Meeting - Minutes September 9, 2025

In Attendance: *Remotely*: Sr. Leonette and Kim Thomas ; *Present*: *New Members* Andrea Richardson and Ana Schulz; *Members*: Mary Factor, Donna Holz, Kim Blackford, Lori Fick, Cindy Yamnitz, Alice Weis, Fr. Steve Robeson, Sue Fuchs, Jeanne Schepers, Becky Quick, Libby Long, Susan Buerkle, Mary Merzlufft.

**Subcommittee reports:**

Care For Creation – Lori Fick

- Upcoming October 12th workshop in Mary Mother Church Hall: ***Plastics: Impact on our Environment and Our Health*** with featured speaker Luz Rooney. Register on Sign up Genius. It will be publicized in the Archdiocese and in Seeds of Justice.



- Care For Creation will have a display at upcoming Stewardship Event Sept. 27-28.

Culture of Life - Jeanne Schepers

- National Migration Week (Sept. 22-28) and World Day of Migrants and Refugees (October 4-5).  
Actions will include:
  - Posters in the lobby and church promoting sensitivity toward immigrants and refugees starting 9/22
  - Prayer Card: "That They May All Be One" to be placed in pews 9/21-22, during USCCB National Migration Week
  - Prayers of the Faithful: Sept 27-28 and Oct 4-5
  - 10/11: Randy will deliver Homily relating Gospel to Migrants and Refugees
  - Jeanne will reproduce and distribute our previously compiled handout regarding volunteer opportunities with agencies serving immigrants and refugees.
  - Action: It was suggested to write letters of gratitude to Archbishop Rozanski for speaking out publicly about the Church's stance in Migration in an interview with Anne Allred of KSDK. Link to Interview is:  
<https://youtu.be/p6SFRbEYMOo>
- Am I my Brothers Keeper? Workshop Feb. 21, 2026: 10:00 -1:00 PM, led by Joyce Jones and Jeff Schulenburg. Light Refreshments provided
- Movies and Soup/Chili:
  - Tuesday 2/17/26: 6:00 PM *Entertaining Angels*
  - Saturday 3/7/26: 5:30 PM *Selma*
  - Sunday 3/22/26: 12:00 Noon *Just Mercy*
- Future activities to include a Field Trip to The Garden Studio Café' in Ferguson and also a visit to the Holocaust Museum

## Love Thy Neighbor – Libby Long

- Libby reports that, following review of the subcommittee's work, Fr. Lydon requested that an addendum to the James Martin "Building a Bridge" book be included in every book which would include official Catholic Church Teaching on the subject of LGBTQ+. MaryAnn Lause Contacted Fr. Martin directly, and received permission to include his article from America Magazine, April 6, 2018. Newer editions of the book which were marketed in Europe included the article. A copy was given to all members, and we will study this as a group in a future meeting.
- Love Thy Neighbor will host a poster at the Stewardship Event.

## New Subcommittee?

- A suggestion was made to initiate an Advocacy Subcommittee. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

## New Business

- Archdiocesan Happenings: Kim Blackford reported on the following.
  - **Just Faith:** Faith and Immigration Series is currently being offered at St. Justin the Martyr Parish. It may still be open to participants. Contact cathygriner@gmail.com if interested. Mary Mother Culture of Life committee may consider offering it.
  - **Immigration Task Force:** World Day of Migrants and Refugees: Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>: Pilgrimage to St. Pius V in Solidarity with Immigrants and Refugees. Gather on Front steps of St. Pius V on Grand and Utah. Prayer and program 12:00PM 12:30-12:45
    - **Migration Mass:** Save the Date Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>. St. Pius V: 10:00 Mass, followed by International Pot Luck. For information call Kevin Kuehl, IRM Coordinator, 314-632-6521
    - **Symposium on Spirituality and Mental Health:** St. Peter Claver: Featuring Archbishop Rozanski, Danielle Harrison, Philip Hutsler, and panelists. Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> 10:45-3:00 PM Rose Philippine Dushesne Parish Hall of Sacred Heart Parish; 1210 Paddock Dr. Enter at Door 9. Florissant, MO 63033 . Register Here:



- **From Hunger to Hope: A Food Insecurity Summit October 9<sup>th</sup>** Rigali Center 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. An interfaith event for community leaders and volunteers addressing the root causes of hunger and exploring how we can continue to provide sustainable, dignified access to food for all in our region. Lunch included.



- **Bus tour: Dred Scot's footprints.** October 25: 8:30-12:30. \$35 per person: Inspirational, historical, and surprise-filled bus tour revealing Black history of St. Louis, curated by Dred Scott's great-great Granddaughter, Lynne M. Jackson.

[Registration Form | STL Racial Harmony](#)

- **Creation Care Summit:** Planting Seeds of Hope: Sponsored by the Laudato Si Commission: September 13, 2025; 9:00-1:00 at Cardinal Rigali Center. Lunch Included

#### Creation Care Summit: Planting Seeds of Peace & Hope

- The Wellston Center - Tornado Recovery - October 2 & 3. We will be providing 100 bagged lunches. Meal prep will be Thursday, Oct. 2 from 10:00am until noon in the church kitchen; delivery will be Friday, Oct. 3 at 9:00am. A sign-up sheet for food (or cash), was passed. Members can contact Becky Quick at (314) 703-1131 to arrange donations. Sue Krieger will publicize to Christian Service Commission. This will be our last project for Wellston Center  
Becky suggested in the future, in response to the Vicariate's Hope Into Action Workshop, we may strive to provide service in Southern Vicariate. Donna suggested connecting with Rural Parish Workers.
- Stewardship Weekend Event - September 27 & 28 - after all masses. "Mary, Mary - Oh Sweet Mother! Help My Garden Grow" is the name of this event. We have 1.5 tables (12 ft) reserved for our displays. Volunteers are needed to prepare the displays and man the tables that weekend. A sign-up sheet was passed at the meeting. To volunteer, contact Becky Quick at (314) 703-1131.

Peace and Justice Poster: Becky envisions a tree with Catholic Social Teachings: Listing parish ministries does under each branch. Becky would like assistance sorting ministries at Mary Mother on to "Leaves" of Catholic Social Teachings. There will be prayer cards of Prayer of St. Francis and handouts for CST for Children.

- "Unmasking Human Trafficking: Prevention, Collaboration, and Empowerment Conference" is being presented by gahtmo.org (Shima Rostami) October 16 (via Zoom) & 17 (in person).



Next meeting is October 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Note: There is an execution scheduled for that day. Kim will be going to the execution if it happens. Committee will meet for prayer at 5:30 in the adoration chapel if it does occur.

\*If you desire to sign a petition for Clemency for Lance Shockley with Missourians Against the Death Penalty: Here is the link

<https://madp.salsalabs.org/ClemencyforLanceShockley/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=48b6cf23-edcb-4724-b9d1-a0b7057bbba6>

#### **Respect Life Updates**

- The Spiritual Adoption Program will begin the weekend of 9/27-28. Prayer cards will be available on the bulletin tables and at our table at the Stewardship Event.
- Stewardship Event
  - You can also pick up a magnet at the Stewardship Event with a baby's picture that says "...in the image of God! From the very beginning to the natural ending RESPECT LIFE!"

- We'll also have trifold brochures from the Archdiocese for Moms in Need, Families in Need, and Abortion Healing Ministry.
- Information on upcoming events
- Upcoming Events:
  - Life Chain, October 5 from 2-3 pm along Butler Hill Road in front of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
  - An invitation to the parish to arrive at the weekend Masses 30 minutes early to pray a rosary together for a greater respect for all human life, from conception to natural death all four weekends of October, Respect Life Month.
  - Respect Life Conference October 4, 9:00 to 3:00 at the Cardinal Rigali Center. The Respect Life Committee will pay from parishioners to registration. Carpool From MMOC is available. Contact Leslie Najjar.
  - Celebrate Life Mass - Saturday, October 18 10:00 am at the Cathedral Basilica followed by rosary and reception in Boland Hall
  - Gabriel's Retreat - October 17-19 - for new and expectant mothers facing any unexpected challenge - no charge
  - Gabriel's Retreat Ministries - Mothers' Book Club - 1st Saturdays of the month at their office in Fenton
  - Gabriel's Retreat Ministries - Elizabeth's Support for anyone needing some extra love and support in motherhood - Prayers, Education Classes, Diaper Drop, Welcome Baby Meals, Mom Check-Ins
  - Men's Morning of Reflection - Saturday, November 8 from 9 am - noon at Catholic Renewal Center - for men impacted by abortion
  - Michael's Retreat for expecting and young fathers with children under 2 years old - November 14-16 at Il Ritiro Retreat Center - no charge
  - Archbishop Fulton Sheen Day Pilgrimage - October 28 - bus trip to Peoria, IL - \$50 includes bus transportation, box lunch and light snacks on the bus - Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Cathedral Tour, Visit to Fulton Sheen's Tomb, The Fulton Sheen Museum Tour - leave Cardinal Rigali Center at 7:30 am and return at 6:30 pm.

### **Christian Formation Core Team Updates 9-11-2025**

Present: Jean Angus, Cindy Yamnitz, Aimee Barrett, Carol Winkler, Mary Wavada, Carolyn Habenstreit, Mark Benmuvhar . Absent: Tom Angus, Leslie Najjar, Becky McDonnell, Randy Howe, Bob Balassi, Kathleen Balassi, Rose Weithop, Mary Ann McWilliams

### **Plans for Alpha programs starting this Fall**

- Young Adult – The Lewandowski's are leading with the Balassi's – Thursday evenings. Starting 9/18/26
- High School – Becky McDonnell and Katilyn Kennedy are leading – Wednesday evenings at church. Starting 10/8/26.
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Youth Alpha – during PSR – Kathleen Schoellhorn , Pastoral Ministry Associate - South Vicariate will be the MC for this group.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Parent Alpha – during PSR Will need lots of help – please plan to volunteer – Time is short!!! Table facilitators need to emphasize sharing not being a reference source to answer questions. There are three components – love, listen, laugh. Help all belong and share without judgement.
- Parish-wide Alpha – TBD
- Be looking for a flocknote with information on signing up to pray for each of these sessions and for volunteering to prepare food.

### **Update on Archdiocesan Programs**

- Our Sacred Table
  - MMOC has decided not to participate at this point in time. Ellie – to follow up with Sr. Maureen.

- Missionaries of Joy – enrollment is closed.

## MMOC Programs and Offerings

### Christmas Book Give Away

- I spoke with Randy and Ellie and a few others who had read some or all of the suggested books. There was no clear consensus/winner on which book to offer. Because there was no book that really set everyone on fire as this is the book for our parish and the current budget situation, we have decided not to purchase any books at this time.

### Stewardship event – Mary, Mary – Oh Sweet Mother! Help Our Garden Grow

- After masses Sept 27-28
- Becky and Rose are coordinating this for the Christian Formation Commission
- Table displays for ministries
- Multiple tables for Christian Formation
  - Christian Formation offerings – any ideas???
  - Peace & Justice
  - Respect Life
  - Alpha
  - Ellie – PSR
- Life size poster of Pope Leo – for taking pictures with Pope Leo.
- Will need volunteers after each mass to assist at the Christian Formation table(s)
  - No one available to assist as they have other tables to assist with so we are still looking for volunteers.
- There will not be a table for prayer groups but a handout will be available.
- We reviewed the handouts for the weekend. We will be adding some additional learning and prayer resources.
- Focus is on what is available for parishioners, not what we want them to volunteer to do.

### OCIA

- Ed has 3 possible new inquiries for OCIA

### Legacy Project – Anchored in Faith: Preserving and Sharing Stories of God's love – Rose

- The Legacy Project was on display in the vestibule the weekends of 9/6-7 and 9/13-14.
- Rose was not planning to offer this again. However, all the instructions are available and anyone could choose to create their own legacy project. Contact Rose if interested.
- Thank you for your work to secure this grant and all the work with meeting with the parishioners who participated and helping them complete their final project.

### Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Basic Catholic Catechism Course – Leslie Najjar

- There are 19 doing the course. Discussion groups start the week of 9/15/25. One is on Monday morning and the other on Wednesday evening.
- Comment received: The instructional materials have been updated but the website is out of date.

### Lent 2026

- The Peace and Justice committee is planning to offer 3 movies on social justice issues during Lent.
  - Tuesday, 2/17/2026 at 6:00 pm - Entertaining Angels
  - Saturday, 3/20/2026 at 5:30 pm – Selma
  - Sunday, 3/22/2026 at 12:00 – Just Mercy

### Peace and Justice Presentations:

- Plastics: Their Impact To Our Health and Our Environment – Luz Rooney, 10/12/2025
- Am I My Brother's Keeper – Joyce Jones and Jeff Schulenberg: 2/21/2026

### Contemplative Prayer Group Update

- Deacon Bob will present "Partaking in the Trinitarian Roles" on Tuesday September 16, 6:30-7:30 in church. This presentation will be recorded and added to the contemplative page on the website, The two previous presentations are already on the website.

### Cornerstone

- This year's study will be The Acts of The Apostles
- Visitor's Day is 9/24/2025
- Sessions will be on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 -11:30 am
- Will run from late September to March
- Contact is Ed Lewandowski

### Faith Formation Newsletter/Flocknote – Living Our Faith

- This newsletter followed the liturgical year. We will have completed a one year review of the liturgical year in November.
- Thus far the newsletter has had over a 50% open rate each month.
- Thank you Rose for your inspiration and great work composing this newsletter.

### Library Update

- Carolyn Habenstriet is taking over the library from Jeanne Schepers.
- The library will still have the same focus: Social Justice and Contemplative Spirituality.
- We are not accepting any book donations for the library. We do not have the space to house or resources to assess additional books.
- Carolyn has created a spreadsheet of all the available books.
- Carolyn is contacting the social outreach director of the south vicariate to see if there are any rural parishes that may want books we will not be keeping.
- I want to acknowledge and thank Jeanne for all her work in starting the library.

Mark Benmuvhar reported on the Hope into Action Workshop held Sept. 6 at St. Joseph-Imperial.

- The event focused on Prayer, learning, and discernment for all those interested in social action on behalf of the poor and vulnerable in our Vicariate.
- There is desire for us to focus our resources more to the poor in our vicariate instead of just the city of St. Louis as we have traditionally done.
- Mark presented the 5 A's of evangelization and the impact that immediate prayer with an individual can have as opposed to just saying "I will pray for you or I will add you to my prayer list".
  - Ask permission to pray with the individual
  - Ask if you may place your hand on their shoulder
  - Address God with trust
  - Acknowledge Blessings
  - Ask for Help
  - All Through Christ
  - Amen (we believe)

### Vocations

- Fr Steve has formed a group to address this and is leading this group.

Cindy has met with Ellie. We hope to invite her to future meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Cindy Yamnitz, Christian Formation Chair*

September 2025

HMC Meeting September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 7:00pm (Annual Welcome/Information Meeting)

Attendance: Aimee Barrett, Amy Kelemen, Mary Scalzo, and Michele Venable

Guests: John Stolze and Jean Stortzum

Approval of August meeting minutes

### **New Business**

- **Information Meeting**
  - Welcome guests
  - What is the Health Ministry Commission?
  - HMC members introduce themselves and briefly explain their role in HMC or an event in which they enjoyed participating
  - Refreshments!
  - Please fill out the general interest sheet
- **Stewardship Weekend** – Saturday, Sep. 27 & Sunday, Sep. 28 (“Mary, Mary, our sweet Mother, how will our garden grow?”)
  - All commissions will have a table in the parish hall
  - Parishioners will receive a bingo card to be stamped by the commission as they visit each table; attendees can be entered into a drawing for a small prize for visiting each table
  - Trifold board with information about HMC (visual)
  - Provide health-related information handouts available (takeaway)
  - We will have life savers & bandages leftover from our new parishioner welcome bags (takeaways)
  - Linda Telthorst and Mary Scalzo created a board with health trivia questions for the event and showed us how the activity will work (interactive)
  - Kevin Brady and Judy Peckham will host our table on Saturday; Aimee Barrett and Lisa Roseland – Sunday 9am; Mary Scalzo – Sunday 11am
- **Second line dancing event** – Friday, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Both events were well attended (25 – 30 people each night)
  - All enjoyed learning the dance steps and socializing.

### **Parish Nurse**

- Follow up mental presentation from Tom Caffery, Licensed Professional Counselor, will be postponed - possibly to spring 2026 due to PSR Alpha program this fall.
- Blood drive – Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 – 6:30pm hosted by Impact Life. We are set for volunteers but still need more donors.
- Medicare presentation at request of a parishioner – Wednesday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 6PM; please register on Sign Up Genius, especially if want dinner at 5:30. A representative from MO SHIP (Missouri State Health Insurance Assistance Program) will be presenting this information.
- CPR/AED class with KeepinTheBeatCPR – Thursday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 to 7PM. Need at least 5 students. Each participant cost \$65. We just ask for a \$20 donation and the church will pick up the rest of the cost. Since we have AEDs at the parish we really want to make sure there are trained parishioners trainers available.
- Good Samaritan Driver Ministry: We provided 4 rides for 2 different people.
- Flu Vaccines – Sunday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 1pm. Please sign up online with Signup Genius. We will have 60 high dose and 20 regular doses.

### **Other News/Information from Members?**

- PSR drills will be on October 13<sup>th</sup> – Fire drill, tornado, earthquake, and intruder

*Notes taken by Amy Kelemen  
Submitted by Aimee Barrett*

## MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

September 2025

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE –

- Welcome Pew Cards – Good News! We have had 4 green cards completed and turned in. Two have resulted in the people joining Mary Mother. This has proved to be a great way to reach out to our visitors and solidifies continuing its use.
- Stewardship Weekend – As this report is being written, this event is only one week away. It appears to be coming together very well and has been well received by our Parish Council Commissions and committees. Each table will have give-aways, activities, and information about how to help “grow your garden”. Three large mum plants have been donated and after a FlockNote request for gift cards, we have collected 26 cards valued at \$400 that will be added to each mum plant. These will be used for those who have completed their Bingo Garden Card and put it in a bin for a chance to win. The Kids’ Corner will provide coloring sheets and other activities and special snacks for the kids. Each child will go home with more than one prize, including an egg that when put in water will grow into a dinosaur within 24-48 hours. We want them to think of it as growing their faith in God.
- MMOC T-shirts – We sold 144 shirts. Shirts will be delivered this week and available for pick up at the Stewardship Weekend Event.
- Welcome Bags are getting bigger. Several committees are beginning to include stuff in the bags.
- YTD new parishioners total is 34. At this time last year, we had 27 new parishioners so we are gratefully ahead of last year to this point. Keep up the stewardship.
- The Stewardship Committee hosted and staffed the first Sacramental Family Meal on September 15<sup>th</sup> to kick off the year of Alpha.

### CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP –

- Weekly Lectio Divina continues facilitated by Joe Himmelberg on Tuesday afternoons at 2:45pm via Zoom. Contact Joe at: [joezimmerberg@yahoo.com](mailto:joezimmerberg@yahoo.com).
- Monthly Centering Prayer, facilitated by Margaret Porrier, continues the third Tuesday each month at 10:30 am in the MMOC classrooms.
- The final 2025 quarterly program is scheduled for December 9. These are at 6:30 pm in church.

PRAYER GROUPS – Calls to each prayer group have been made to confirm the accuracy of what is shown on our website. A few changes were made accordingly.

JONAH TEAM – Nothing to report.

### E-TEAM SQUARED –

The August meeting was held while I was out of town and we didn’t have any representation at that meeting. Next meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup> and it is doubtful I will be able to attend as we will be setting up for the Stewardship Weekend Event. Jennifer Mehan sent out a survey for all participants to complete regarding how we felt the first year of this Team has done. In my opinion it has great value and I see it continuing. I will keep everyone posted.

Submitted by,

Mary Ann McWilliams  
Chair, Missionary Discipleship Commission

## Mary Mother of the Church Liturgy Commission Meeting

September 3, 2025

Attendance: Ann Madden, Angela Hapgood, Nate Jackson, Nancy Muehl, Pat Tobin, Carol Drury, Mary Anne Howe, Anne Duncan, Susan Fuchs.

Opening prayer was led by Nancy Muehl. Approval of the August 6 minutes were approved as presented via flocknote to all members of the Liturgy Commission.

Director of Liturgy — Nate Jackson (Since Nate must leave meeting early, he gave his report now.) • First practice for traditional choir begins tonight.

- Nate met with Anita Anton regarding liturgical dance at the October 5, 11 am mass to review music and what they need. Their next liturgical dance will be December 28.
- The teen mass w/5 girls went well. Currently looking for a future date to schedule another one that works well for their busy schedules.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Ann Madden reported the Ministry Training workshops went well. We had 3 new Hospitality Ministers attend. Server workshop will be Saturday, September 27.
- It was noted that Michelle Enable is still asking that Mass Monitors be made aware if any health care workers are in the congregation for each mass. This would help so much, if any emergency arose.
- Growing Our Faith weekend 9/27 and 9/28/25. This is taking the place of when we used to have the festival of ministries. The Liturgy Commission will have a table for the event. Nancy Muehl & Sue Fuchs volunteered to help Ann construct a display board. Mary Anne Howe and Nancy Muehl will work the table after the 4:30 mass, Anne Duncan & Sue Fuchs at the 9:00 am mass and Pat Tobin at the 11:00 am mass. Pat Tobin volunteered to work on having some "give-aways" for the event.
- The blessing of pets will be October 5 at 1:00 pm. This is a busy day at Mary Mother — the Pasta Dinner will be happening and the rosary life chain will be happening.
- No one has volunteered for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Pat T. will email Randy Howe and DRE Ellie for an update.
- There will be something placed in the bulletin — requesting volunteers for anyone interested for the Advent Planning Team. Pat T. will also be asking Jeanne Rothermel if she plans to chair the Christmas team again.
- September 8— PSR opening mass at 6:30. Carol Drury is making a big WELCOME sign. Need 6 mums, which Pat T. will get from Wiethop.
- Outdoor mass that was previously mentioned has been tabled. There is not enough time to plan for this year in conjunction with the Trunk or Treat. We will be looking to do this in future — possibly spring/summer.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- October is Respect Life Month and the month of the Rosary.
- Anointing of the sick will be the weekend of October 18-19. We might possibly look into inviting another priest to help out that weekend.

● Thanksgiving Day liturgy — The Howe's will be handling the baking of bread on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 25) All are invited to join them downstairs in the kitchen.

• Advent — last year we hand Advent Calendars to distribute. Pat T. will order again, 1 per family.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director of Liturgy — Nate gave his report at the beginning of the meeting.

Art & Environment — Pat TobilCarol Drury discussed earlier what is most currently needed.

Children's Liturgy of the Word — Ellie Roche absent

Lectors — Wendy Franklin absent

Servers — Nancy Muehl

● Nancy will be talking to PSR parents on September 8 to solicit young people. She will stress we can offer to parents/grandparents/kids to possibility to serve together at God's table. • Training will be September 27 in the morning.

Hospitality — Sue Fuchs — nothing extra to report

Adoration- Anne Duncan

● Adorers had been a total of 44. We are down from that, so we need new people.

Mass Intentions — no report

Parish Council News — Ann Madden

● Home Coming was successful, with a few hiccups. Worst problem was that we ran out of food on Sunday. It was determined a Kitchen Manager is need to handle this portion. We plan to have another Home Coming next year, but not have 3-days all together.

The next meeting will be October 1, 2025. A closing prayer was prayed aloud by all present. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Hapgood

## Social Commission Report-September 2025

### Upcoming events in October

October 5 Pasta Dinner 4pm to 7pm. Looking for volunteers to help-sign up on sign up genius. We will have a computer at the social table during festival of ministries so people can sign up for events on the spot.

October 17-Puzzle night. Get a table of 4 together for our puzzle competition. 50 dollars a table with the winning table getting ½ of the entrance fees.

October 18 Trunk or Treat after 4:30 mass. Looking for treat givers-sign up on sign up genius.

October 26 Bunko in the afternoon at 1:00 in the Riley Center.

Donut Sundays will continue the third weekend of the month every month.

No scheduled activity in November yet but we are looking at some possibilities. We have booked the Sunday afternoon before Christmas for our second annual parish Christmas movie.

Respectfully submitted

Rich Blackford

## ***PSR Update from Ellie Roche Sept 2025***

- ***PSR | Faith Formation | Children's Liturgy*** – Ellie's notes: PSR needs a 5<sup>th</sup> grade catechist for the PSR school year of 25-26. There are currently 13 students attending in person with 5 who opted for homeschool.
- ***Children's Liturgy of the Word:*** We are using Holy Heroes as an engagement tool for children now and I am looking to revamp the program. I would like to implement the order of the mass next year with Youth Volunteers from the PSR program every Sunday during the PSR year. This mission is called: the St. John Berchmans mission at Mary, Mother of the Church. (see attachment). This will hopefully inspire service from PSR with our parish as whole.
- ***Faith Formation at home:*** Currently I have 16 children in the "homeschool edition" program. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. All these children are welcome to attend in person events/classes when possible. I support a hybrid model.
  - ***Need:*** A few lay members to make home visits once a month to some of these families for an in-person interaction.
- ***Children's Contemplative Prayer ministry*** (idea in the works). I would like to identify faith filled individuals within the PSR program to establish a contemplative youth prayer ministry. This would require partnership with the Adult Contemplative Prayer group to serve as mentors for the youth....
- ***Family Nights:*** There are 2 family nights in the PSR Schedule. I would like to partner with 2 active MMOC Ministries to help me lead in these family nights with PSR families. This is an opportunity to showcase your ministry for more participation and a bridge builder between Catholics not attending mass and Catholics attending mass. ***Please share your thoughts on this. An idea is Family Night can be hosted by the Social Peace and Justice Committee who teaches PSR all about SP&J and provides us with a presentation, activity and prayer.***

## ***Youth Ministry Update from Kaitlyn Kennedy Sept 2025***

For our youth group update, things have been slow this month with the start of school. We have been brainstorming and attempting to introduce new activities to bring the teens back to youth group. We are still trying and evaluating to see what will work and how to best engage teens and their parents.

We will have a table at the Stewardship Weekend.

We are planning to have a teen Alpha beginning October 8.

In light of limited teen attendance at youth group in the last 6 weeks, we are planning a "youth group reboot" night later this fall. Due to many students participating in marching band, it will likely take place on a Saturday in November once the season has finished. More details can be shared with the Parish Council as they are finalized.

## Administration and Finance Commission August Report 08-23-2025

- Major Projects
  - All plan major project work is done for now; we will begin working on obtaining bids to re-roof the Reilly center.
    - Fr. Steve, sometime in the next couple weeks, we need to craft the message about fundraising for the Major Projects for the roof
- Financials
  - As the end of August, we have a \$21,766.88 operating loss- a slight improvement over July
  - Cash position is still strong \$655,834.70, in unrestricted funds, and \$413,983.62 in restricted funds.

Submitted By: Mark Inman