

**St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
5:30 p.m. Undercroft**

The Meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. by Msgr. Gilles with a prayer.

Members Present: Kevin Decker, Tammy Becker, Mari Erickson, Deacon Chris Kabat, Olivia and Mike Knapik, Lauren and Nick Harding, Cheri Rifenberg, Nancy Rose, Monica Leis, Lynne Ostervich, and Msgr. Gilles.

Jedidiah Taubel, Paul Jacobs, and Chuck Whalen were excused.

Joseph Nduka was absent.

Minutes of the December 10, 2024 meeting were approved.

### **Old Business**

#### **Parish Logo for Spirit Wear**

Samples of various styles of shirts with the Cathedral Logo are here and available for parishioners to see. Orders will be fulfilled by Games People Play. Emails will be sent out to parishioners with details about ordering.

#### **Update on Ballot for Pictorial Directory**

Ballots for people to vote on whether or not they would support a pictorial directory were available in the church pews for two weekends. 98% of the returned ballots were in favor of a directory and will participate in it. Parishioners were also able to use these ballots as a response regarding interest in going on the pilgrimage to Italy in the fall of 2026.

#### **Review of New Procedure for the Reception of Holy Communion**

The new procedure is working out well for the daily Masses. Weekend Mass ushers will help direct people at the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Msgr. Gilles will slow down his distribution of Holy Communion in order to give parishioners adequate time to approach the reception area.

#### **Establishing a Vocations Committee/Supporting Michael Leis**

All vocations are rooted in baptism. Parishioners deepen their vocation with God. Religious life is crucial. Mary Lehn is very interested in this and will help to lead this committee.

### **Update on Young Adult Group**

The young adult group is continually evolving. They meet in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, take part in vespers or prayers, listen to a speaker and then move to the rectory for social time. They need to build up relationships with each other first and then the spiritual items will be added.

### **Events**

#### **Chili Cook Off February 1**

Kevin Decker's chili took first place. \$367 was raised for the Elizabeth Ministry. They are going to buy a Pastoral Guide as an aide for the Elizabeth Ministry. The Rosebud Program will be reassessed and possibly come for an in-house training at Cathedral. Another project could be to collect and organize prayer intentions every month.

#### **Pancake Breakfast February 9**

The pancake breakfast was a success bringing in a profit of \$602. The increased cost of eggs cut into the profit. The Warming Center helped out with volunteers. There could possibly be another pancake breakfast in June.

#### **Covenant Hearts February 15 (and 2026 Speakers)**

There were 20 couples attending. Ian and Kayla Leavitt from WCI were the speakers this year. Next year a WCI couple, Theresa and Peter Martin from the Winona/Rochester Diocese will speak at Covenant Hearts. Castaways has a capacity of 80 people.

#### **St. Joseph's Table March 16**

Kevin Decker along with Monica Leis and her sisters will organize this. There will be a blessing of the breads brought by parishioners after the 7:30 and 10:00 Masses. Petitions will be put before St. Joseph.

#### **Patronal Feast Day Celebration May 4**

The Family Life Committee, maybe the PCCW, and Kevin Decker will help with this project. Brats, burgers, and hot dogs will be served. There will be music and activities for children. It will take place here at Cathedral.

#### **All Parishioner Picnic July 20 at John Leslie's House to Welcome New Parishioners**

All parishioners are invited to the picnic to help welcome our new parishioners who joined Cathedral in the last year. The picnic will begin at 3:00 p.m.

#### **Beacon of Light Celebration September 14**

Kevin is building up committees to help with the picnic. The money made on this celebration will go towards Pastoral Ministry events such as March for Life.

### **Family Camp at Camp Gray, Madison**

This event will take place in September or October. Kevin hopes to get more families involved this year. Cathedral could possibly have the whole camp to themselves due to the time of year.

### **New Business**

#### **Inspired by the Spirit Capital Campaign Case Statement: Undercroft Kitchen**

The kitchen in the undercroft was originally set up as a school cafeteria kitchen. Money has been earmarked for this upgrade. A focus group will be formed to guide the updates. A user friendly and more efficient kitchen will be safer and it will invite more events. Adding A/V capabilities and remodeling the church hall was also discussed and this will be addressed separately in the future.

#### **Discussion on the Merits of a Contracted Public Relations Person**

A public relations person hired for 10-15 hours per week could help promote upcoming events. It was suggested we get some input on a job description and expectations from the Shrine.

#### **Heightening the Cathedral's Profile within the Downtown Community**

Our goal is to promote what Cathedral is doing in the community as a good neighbor. We can promote free parking on the weekends. We could also reboot the tours of Cathedral.

#### **Discussion on the Possibility of Hosting a Volunteer Appreciation event**

An event with cocktails and appetizers may possibly be held in early November to thank all of the volunteers at Cathedral. Kevin will check into this further.

#### **Bereavement Ministry**

Pictures of recently deceased parish members will be on display in the church for members to acknowledge their memory. Also Mass scheduling for the first anniversary of their death will be reserved.

#### **Candidates for the Annual St. Joseph Award**

Decision has been made.

#### **Update on Discipleship and Bible Studies**

The bible studies at Cathedral have been expanded and have grown. Men's Bible Study Group started with five men. Now two of those men are each leading a group bible study. There are 25 men involved in this program. Women's Discipleship is also expanding.

#### **Rebooting Men of St. Joseph All Men's Group**

Msgr. Gilles is very interested in bringing back the Men's group. They would meet three to four times a year. The meetings would include vespers and a talk. Kevin, along with Msgr. Gilles, will work on this project.

## **Report on “Behold” Retreat at Blessed Sacrament Parish**

The retreat was a great event. There were 130 young adult students attending.

## **Marriage Formation Groups in the Parish**

We currently have Worldwide Marriage Encounter at Cathedral. More couples are stepping up to the plate to help with this. Marriage enrichment is very important.

## **Encouraging Participation in the Diocesan Lay Formation Institute Program**

This is a two year program under the direction of Christopher Ruff. The program is reaching out to parish lay people wanting a deeper level of formation.

## **Pilgrimage to Italy**

It’s a go!

## **Pastoral Council Committee Reports**

### **Social Concerns**

#### **Pro-Life Movement; March for Life in 2026**

Deacon Kabat reported that this is definitely a “GO” for 2026.

We will be praying for an end to abortion in front of Planned Parenthood Monday through Friday during Lent.

#### **Front Door Ministry Update**

Everything is going well.

#### **Warming Center updates**

Volunteers are needed to help cover some of the Monday meal preparation and drop off. Reimbursement up to \$100 is available.

### **Family Life**

Elizabeth Decker is thinking about possibly having a Talent Night this spring or summer.

### **Sacred Worship**

The Ministry Fair was a success and will be held annually in November. The introduction welcoming people to Cathedral before Mass begins will be kept in place. The Rorate Caeli candle lit Mass will be held on the First Saturday of Advent at 7:00 a.m.

### **Catholic Education**

Host families for exchange students are needed.

Docent training for tours at Cathedral has been done.

**Date of Next Meeting:** April 8, 2025

Meeting adjourned with a prayer at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Ostervich