



Saint Gabriel

CATHOLIC PARISH

Meeting of Human Concerns Commission December 2, 2025

Present at meeting: Gerry Wolf (Chair), Barth Wolf (Secretary), Donna Rider (Vice Chair), Ron Weis, Linda Helvick, Sarah Walters, Tom Petrilli, and Sarah Kohls

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm with Gerry reading from Matthew 25.

The minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting were adopted with revisions to the paragraph about the Giving Tree.

Jim Robertson was not able to attend so there was not an update from the Parish Council.

Donna Rider is looking at putting in the bulletin some Respect Life prayers and/or reflections.

Sarah Walters said no additional blood drives have been set yet other than the January 19, 2026 and March 21, 2026 blood drives. The plan is to schedule two more later next year.

Sarah Kohls provided an update on the Elizabeth Ministry program. Her and Kathy Mans are in the process of re-establishing the program. They are starting with the Rosebuds Program and welcoming new Baptism families. Rosebuds are being regularly updated and she hopes to increase the visibility of them. Photos of Baptism families are being displayed on a wall in the gathering space. Moving forward the plan is to further expand the Elizabeth Ministry program.



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Tom Petrilli provided a very informative update on the St. Vincent De Paul program. St. Gabriel and St. Boniface have combined their conferences. Tom said he is the only active member from St. Gabriel. Our conference is also part of the larger Washington County conference which was named the non-profit of the year in Washington County. Tom does regular home visits to persons seeking services from St. Vincent De Paul. He is putting something in the bulletin providing details on St. Vincent De Paul and inviting any interested persons to get involved.

Ron Weis gave an update on the food pantry. The response to the request made for food due to the impact of the government shutdown was great. With those donations and the Thanksgiving food collection and admission donations for the boutique held at church the pantry is well stocked. A thank you was in the bulletin for the great response. Ron will stay in touch to see how the pantry is doing next year and we can consider having a special Lenten food collection, if needed.

Linda Helvick reported that Gerry Wolf stopped by both the afternoon and evening sessions of last months meetings to thank the yarn ministry for their work and to learn more about what is being done. They continue to provide items regularly to the Congregation of the Great Spirit and make Baptism blankets and prayer shawls for St. Gabriel, They have also provided items to Karl's Place in West Bend and Christ Child in Milwaukee.

The response to the Giving Tree to benefit the Congregation of the Great Spirit has been great. Donna Rider already took a van full of donations there and will take at least one more. The Giving Tree will still be up until December 6-7, 2025. The school children made the beautiful "ornaments" for the tree for people to take. Some pictures documenting the next delivery would be appreciated. Donna also advised that they are also in need of peanut butter and energy/breakfast bars. It was discussed to have a basket at church with a sign indicating the 2 or 3 items most needed for



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the food pantry at the Congregation of the Great Spirit. We agreed to move forward with this and to update the items needed periodically. Ron Weis said that our food pantry may have extra peanut butter they could possibly send as well. Gerry Wolf is still pursuing possible options for the school to visit the Congregation of the Great Spirit.

Under new business Donna Rider talked about the Unbound child and elderly sponsorship program. This program, previously called Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, provides an opportunity for people to sponsor a child or elderly person in another country that is need of support. Participants correspond with their sponsored person and have opportunities to visit them as part of planned trips Unbound leads. Unbound has a retired priest that would come to our church and lead masses for the weekend and explain the program and provide the opportunity for parishioners to choose a child or elderly adult to sponsor. Donna and her husband have been sponsors for many years and recently assisted the Unbound priest at masses at an area church. Barth Wolf also said he and his wife have been long-time sponsors, have also helped with campaign weekends at local churches, and have visited several of their sponsored children on Unbound mission trips. Gerry Wolf will follow up with the Liturgy Commission on this and see if this is something we should bring to St. Gabriel.

The meeting closed with a Glory Be.

The next meeting will be via zoom on January 6, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Barth Wolf.