



**Saint Gabriel**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

**Meeting of Human Concerns Commission  
January 6, 2026**

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

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm with Gerry reading a Prayer of Protection to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The minutes of the December 2, 2025, meeting were adopted with several minor revisions.

Jim Robertson provided the Parish Council update and talked about the all commissions meeting. Gerry Wolf will provide a brief update on one or two key Human Concerns Commission items. All Commission members are encouraged to attend.

Under old business, Gerry Wolf is putting together some information on the Unbound child sponsorship opportunity and will get it to Jim Robertson so it can be presented at the next Parish Council Meeting. Donna Rider has confirmed that there is no cost to having an Unbound priest come in. Gerry also reported that he found several Feed My Starving Children food packing events in the area and is planning to attend one in April at Brookfield Lutheran Church. Barth Wolf indicated that he will be back by then and will attend and provide an overview of this ministry that he is very involved in while in Florida. Other Commission members are encouraged to attend if interested in learning more about this.



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Donna Rider put information about the 9 Days for Life Novena in the January 11, 2026 bulletin. She is also planning to include Respect Life prayers periodically in future bulletins.

Sarah Walters said the next blood drive is January 19, 2026. Future blood drives are March 21, 2026 and June 16, 2026.

There was no update on the Elizabeth Ministry program or St. Ben's.

Tom Petrilli said he plans to put a letter in the bulletin from St. Vincent DePaul to thank the parish for its support and to provide an update on key items from the past year. He's waiting for the final donation amount from Thanksgiving to include in the thank you.

Ron Weis gave an update on the food pantry. The shelves are currently well stocked with a good variety of items. Gerry Wolf is asking Parish leadership about having a reverse collection during Lent to benefit the food pantry.

Linda Helvick reported that the Yarn Ministry continues to meet regularly. They use the Bride's Room to store materials and are wondering when the Auction may need the Bride's Room so that they can move their materials out. They have a good supply of Baptismal blankets and prayer shawls.

The response to the Giving Tree to benefit the Congregation of the Great Spirit was great. Donna Rider took four vans full of materials to them. The need for men's clothing was well met. We are also placing a basket at church to collect certain food items of need at the Congregation of the Great Spirit. A sign will be updated periodically that lists the current items of need. Ron Weis suggested we try to have it located so that it does not get confused with the Food Pantry basket.



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Under new business Gerry Wolf said he will be doing a monthly note in the bulletin about Catholic Relief Services. He is also preparing for the Rice Bowls this Lent that benefit Catholic Relief Services. Ron Weis asked if there was a group of parishioners that were available to sit with homebound periodically for a few hours when their primary caregivers were away. No one knew of such a group. Tom Petrilli said he will bring this up at a St. Vincent DePaul meeting to see if this may be something of interest for their group.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Catholic Relief Services.

The next meeting will be via zoom on February 3, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Barth Wolf.