



Saint Gabriel
CATHOLIC PARISH

**Meeting of Human Concerns Commission
September 1, 2026**

Present at the meeting In Person: Gerry Wolf (Chair), Ron Weis, Tom Petrilli, Linda Helvick and Jim Robertson.

Present via Zoom: Sarah Walters

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm with Gerry Wolf leading us in prayer.

The minutes of the May 5, 2026 meeting were approved as sent via email prior to the meeting.

Parish Council Report:

Jim Robertson stated there are no new updates from the Parish Council. Jim reported that the all commission meeting previously planned for September 27, 2026 will be re-scheduled. The re-schedule date is not available at this time.

Old business:

Gerry Wolf reported on Feed My Starving Children. Based on what Gerry and Barth have learned regarding bringing a food packing event to St. Gabriel, this event requires a lot of planning and organization in addition to money for materials. Gerry is considering this a long term project and is pending feedback from Mary Gilmeister.

Gerry Wolf shared that the St. Gabriel staff felt it would be beneficial to collaborate with the Congregation of the Great Spirit (GOGS). During a recent visit to COGS, a parishioner has been identified that would be interested in being a speaker at St. Gabriel. Father Edward Cook was also



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interested in sharing Native American music and rituals to a future mass at St. Gabriel.

Respect Life:

October is Respect Life month. Gerry Wolf and Mary Gilmeister will connect on what to add to the bulletin for Respect Life.

Health Ministry/Blood Drives

Sarah Walters shared that the August blood drive exceeded our goal. We have two more blood drives scheduled for this year:

- Friday, October 30
- Monday, December 28

Elizabeth Ministry:

Gerry Wolf shared an update from Sarah Kohls and Kathy Mans. After the recent publicity on Rosebuds there have been more intentions.

Pictures continue to be taken of the Baptismal Families and they are on display in the gathering space at church.

St. Vincent DePaul:

Tom Pertrilli shared that there was a recent Bundle Sunday collection at St. Boniface Parish. We discussed having a similar collection at St. Gabriel Parish, however, our parish has limited storage space for a large collection. St. Boniface collected a couple of truckloads of items during the Bundle Sunday collection. These items were brought to local St. Vincent DePaul stores.

St. Vincent DePaul feast day is September 27. Tom Pertrilli is planning a bulletin announcement planned to include a history of St. Vincent DePaul and membership information.



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Tom Pertrilli also shared that he refers families to the St. Boniface/St. Gabriel food pantry.

St. Boniface/St. Gabriel food pantry:

Ron Weis shared that the donations to the food pantry have been low throughout the summer. Over the last few weeks the donations at the church have increased. The food pantry is still short on several items including Rice, Pasta and Soup. The food pantry is still able to help all families that visit, however, less food is provided to each family when the food pantry stock is low.

Gerry Wolf reported that when the food pantry sees an overstock on items that overstock items will be shared with the Congregation of the Great Spirit (COGS) and Gerry Wolf will transport the food to COGS on the second Tuesday of the month.

There was a discussion on the cost to run the food pantry. It has been confirmed that the St. Gabriel budget does not have funds allocated to the food pantry. It appears all costs are supported by St. Boniface. If parishioner donations are specifically stated to be for the food pantry, a check is sent from St. Gabriel to St. Boniface for the donated amount. It is unclear what the total cost is to run the food pantry. Some of the costs include:

- \$25 Aldi gift card is provided to every family visiting the food pantry with an average of 40 families a week visiting the food pantry.
- Record keeping and Reporting on the number of visitors
- Maintenance and Electric for coolers

Gerry Wolf will follow up with the St. Boniface Food Pantry.



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St. Bens:

Gerry Wolf reported that Mike Mesenbourg continues to organize the volunteers for St. Ben's.

Yarn Ministry:

Linda Helvick reported that the afternoon Yarn Ministry meetings continue year round and the evening Yarn Ministry meetings resume in August.

Congregation of the Great Spirit topics were discussed throughout the meeting. No additional topics to discuss.

The discernment of Officers topic will be discussed again in October.
The meeting start time will be discussed again in October.

The meeting closed with prayer at 7:20 pm

Next meeting in person and via zoom: October 6, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Linda Helvick