

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Council Notes
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 | **Location:** St. Ann

Notes

Attendance: Erin Fontaine, Tim Vaughn, Jim Stemann, Donna Weber, Frank Vitale, Dan Schindler, Joyce Thomas

Staff: Heather Wagner, Kathy Middendorf, Bill Dirr, Fr. Dave

Absent: Melody Wallace, Jose Martinez, Jennifer Klein, Arline Argentati, Betsy Waldeck, Mike Wolf

Guest

- St. Ann Church Roof
 - A St. Ann parishioner attended the meeting expressing concerns with the St. Ann roof. Parish Council thanked him for bringing concerns to the meeting. B. Dirr and K. Middendorf are aware and are working to address the potential issues.

Reports

- Sacred Heart School Report
 - 45 applications for new students; 31 Kindergarteners
 - Jan 25 Open House – 1-3pm
- St. Ann School Report – not present
- Old Business
 - Split the Pot
 - The total pot was a little ~\$15k. Thanks to T. Vaughn for his work on the raffle.
 - Elections
 - E. Fontaine will send an email to all present members to determine if they want to stay on and if they are interested in a 1, 2, or 3 year term.
 - An idea was presented if all members want to remain and are willing to stay on for the full term: Names will be drawn of out of hat to determine the length of term for each member. This will allow for 3 members to rotate off in 2027 and 3 new members be elected.
 - Volunteers for the Election Committee are J. Stemann, D. Schindler, and F. Vitale
- New Business
 - Women of Faith Request – Serve City
 - Women of Faith have requested to collect underwear from Sunday, Feb 1 – Saturday, Feb 28 by having a bin in the Narthex. It would be checked by a WoF member several times a week. **Motion:** To allow WoF to have a bin in the Narthex during the month of February to collect items at both places. ■
■ made a motion. D. Weber seconded. **Motion passed.**
 - **Motion:** To grandfather it annually. ■ made motion. ■
■ seconded. **Motion passed.**
 - This will be added to the list of grandfathered motion.
 - Votive Candles (Sacred Heart)
 - Randy Coffman has proposed having battery power votive candles at Sacred Heart around the statues in the small rooms. **Motion:** To allow battery powered or real votive candles to be placed at Sacred Heart. ■ made motion. ■ seconded. **It was unanimously voted down.** Battery powered votives are not permitted as candles need to be real wax/flames, and real candles would violate fire code.
 - Hand Sanitizer in the Narthex (Sacred Heart)
 - Since we are in the height of flu season, people have requested hand sanitizer be placed in the Narthex. B. Dirr will put a couple bottles out.

- Signs at Communion Rail (St. Ann)
 - Some parishioners have expressed their concern for the signs at the communion rails stating that people should not touch the rails as they are seen as unwelcoming and harsh. There has been a request that they be removed. **Motion:** To have signs removed from the communion rail and to not allow any new or additional signage to be placed at the rail. [REDACTED] made motion. [REDACTED] seconded. **Motion passed.**

Director of Administration Update

- An audit is occurring this week. Ancillary groups have been noted as groups that will need to change how they are tracking finances. K. Middendorf is going to work with those groups and will bring the final audit comments to Parish Council after the audit is complete.
- Festival numbers will be finalized in January. SH is around ~150k and St. Ann net is ~\$75k.

Director of Facilities Update

- St. Ann roof – Eckstein Roof did come up in July, and they examined all the gutters and roof. They also identified an issue with the downspout. B. Dirr did ask the Archdiocese to come and look at it and they said they would not come look as long as the parish could prove we had someone come out and look and solve the issue.
 - B. Dirr has quotes for tuckpointing, sealing and waterproofing of the church that does need to be completed, but it is a 3-5 year plan as it is very costly. The trees on that side do need trimmed and B. Dirr will take care of that in the Spring.
- Storage Unit at St. Ann – B. Dirr received 4 bids who sent them to the architect who needed some clarifications from the companies. B. Dirr is still waiting to hear back from the companies.
- Tint on SH door for the choir – That is being taken care of next week.
- There will be a prayer service in March at Sacred Heart and banners are being printed out with the date/time/location. These banners will be placed at both St. Ann and Sacred Heart.

Director of Evangelization Update

Celebrations:

- This past Christmas Season two new members of the Church we Received into Full Communion.

Adult Evangelization:

- New Young Adult Ministry start-up:
 - Joelle has been working with a core team of young adults from our parish family to launch a young adult ministry. The pilot gathering consisted of 10 participants. Next gathering is on January 22nd.
- Spring Bible studies are set to begin in late January February
 - We will have two studies available: Monday Evening and Friday Afternoon.
- Men's Group set to start up their spring semester Thursday, January 15th.
- The Catechumenate is coming to an end as we approach the next stage of their journey, the period of Enlightenment and Purification.
 - The focus will transition from catechetical instruction to prayer, repentance and simplicity for the Lenten season
- The Office of Evangelization is collaborating with the Knights of Columbus and the Women of Faith to host a Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon Holy Hour on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00pm at the Sacred Heart Campus.

Youth Evangelization:

- Still in the planning phase for a Youth Ministry
 - Joelle has been working to find and train youth ministers to facilitate youth small groups within our parish family based on the Archdiocesan promoted program Y-Disciple.
- Sacrament Celebration
 - First Communion

- Joelle will be coordinating three parent/formation meetings coming up for preparation for our communicants to receive their First Communion.
 - The formation night on the Eucharist on Feb. 23rd will be open to the parish.
- Confirmation
 - REP Confirmation year 1 will be having their Confirmation Saint Poster Session on Feb. 9th (TBD if this will be open to the parish)
 - Joelle will be coordinating two retreats for our Confirmands that are in year 2.
 - The first will be a NET Retreat hosted at our St. Ann Campus.
 - The Second is a Sponsor/Candidate Retreat hosted at our Sacred Heart Campus.
- OCIC
 - Joelle has been forming four child initiates to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Family Evangelization:

- This year we piloted a sacramental preparation parent lead coaching program for our Parish Religious Program.
 - Joelle piloted a sacramental preparation parent-led coaching program in collaboration with the Archdiocese. After a practice run focusing on the Old Testament, the program is now transitioning to prepare parents to coach their children for First Holy Communion.
- Following several family events within our Parish Religious Program we have begun planning to expand to parish wide family involvement.
 - Over the last three years we have been working to build a community that prays and celebrates together. We have been able to implement these two aspects into events primarily within our Parish Religious Program. After success in growth in both student and parent participation, we will begin planning to host family prayer nights for our parish families that are not within the bounds of our Parish Religious Program.

Marriage Evangelization:

- Items still in the initiation stage

Outreach Evangelization:

- The Living Your Faith Outreach ministry is set to create awareness of their existence at the Masses this weekend. Over the last year the Office of Evangelization has been supporting initiatives to develop a foundation for this ministry to build upon. Nancy Lees, Diane Glover, and Jenny Westerbeck have been working behind the scenes to develop this foundation. The goal, and primary function, for this ministry is to help lead more parishioners to acts of service within our community.

Pastor Updates

- Fr. Dave would like to bring the parishes together for meals (Couple dinner around Valentine's Day, Chili cookoffs, etc.) or via other methods.
- A photo directory and an address book were brought up as additional ideas. An email blast to go out to have people update their contact information is another idea to ensure contact information is up to date prior to information being published. If an address book/phone directory is published, the parish needs to consider getting permission from members prior to publishing.
- Another suggestion to facilitate bringing members from both campuses together is to encourage members to attend the Archdiocese Reds night on September 5.
- Parish Council members should bring ideas to the February meeting for ideas on how to facilitate "community" among members of both campuses.

Next Meeting: February 5 at Sacred Heart			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 5	St. Ann	September 3	St. Ann
April 9	Sacred Heart	October 1	Sacred Heart
May 7	St. Ann	November 5	St. Ann
June 4	Sacred Heart	December 3	Sacred Heart