

Parish Council Bios:

My name is Jennifer D'Alessandro and my husband, Pat, and I have lived in Powell since 2008. We have 9 children, 4 of which still live at home, in an amazing family orchestrated by our Creator. I feel blessed to have this opportunity to introduce myself to our parishioners and potentially serve as one of your council members. I have previous parish council experience in my childhood and former parish. In that parish, I also served on our building committee and worked with families and youth in some of our faith programs including teaching sixth graders in faith formation and then for many years as the middle school and high school youth group leader. I also served as a lector and even helped with music, playing my flute or bells during holiday services.

During my college years, I was actively involved in the Newman Center in Chadron, NE. I also was involved in the Chadron parish, St. Patrick's, on their prayer line and as a lector.

I am blessed to currently serve our parish by working with our high school youth. When I first graduated from college and taught in Powell, I also served as the Newman Center Director for nearly 4 years back in the days of Father Wright and Father Ogg. (That will date me a bit!)

My earliest memories of discerning the callings that God had for me were in high school, when I knew there would be service work in my faith callings, but not certain what it would be. Throughout my adult life, I have found and responded to calls for service in my faith community. In each calling, I find fulfillment and seek to learn and listen. If given the opportunity to serve this parish, I will do it faithfully and completely. St. Barbara's faith community has so very much to offer each one of us if only we seek, find welcome, and work together to build a strong faith community where all feel welcome and invited.

Many years ago, I first read Matthew Kelly's book, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*. Since first reading this book, I come back to it time and time again and strive to really live to be a Dynamic Catholic through prayer, study, generosity, and evangelization. Matthew Kelly highlights how in general, only 7 percent of Catholics are engaged. Like Kelly, I always wonder - but how much stronger could we be if we engaged just 1% more? How much greater could we serve our faith community? Our young? Our old? Our in-between? I pray you let me play a role in seeking to better engage our St. Barbara's faith community.

My name is Kelsey Black. My husband, Aaron, and I moved to Powell 17 years ago and I have been a member of St. Barbara's Parish ever since. We have six children, ranging in age from a Senior in high school to 2nd grade. Over the years, I have taught many different grade levels of Faith Formation and currently teach the 7th grade Confirmation Prep. I also love singing and regularly cantor at Sunday evening Mass, as well as joining the parish choir a few times a year.

In my first term on parish Council, I helped to bring Wyoming Catholic College, President Kyle Washut, to present an incredible Advent Mission in 2024. I also started the First Friday Potlucks with the goal of continuing the beautiful fellowship of the Lenten Soup Suppers all year round. Whether I serve a second term on the Parish Council or not, I will continue to strive to help our church grow and flourish, particularly by seeking ways to build fellowship within the church, to help support and catechize parents and their children, and to find creative ways to help all of our parish to grow in love for our Lord and understanding of his sacrifice and love for us.

My name is Lynn Belford. I grew up in Powell attending St. Barbara's. After graduating high school, I joined the Army. I moved back 12 years later to raise my sons as a single mother because I believed Powell is a great place to raise children and to be closer to family. I worked for 34 years at Linton's Big R and I'm now semi-retired and working 2 ½ days a week at the Powell Tribune.

If elected, I would consider it to be an honor to serve the community of St. Barbara's.

Sharon Swindler, Art, Music, & FCS, EDUC P-12, Adults, & Special Needs, (public & Home School)

(Populations, of White, Navajo, Sioux Lakota, Pueblo, Mexican, & Asian)

Parish Council Nominee: St Barbara's Catholic Church, Powell, Wyoming

What I can do for you! Listen, observe, discern, and support with God's Grace.

Years of experience in churches and parishes has prepared me for God's Call to teach and guide with God's goodness and grace. With higher level education, skills, and experience, I bring to the table some of those Ideas. Art, Music, & Family & Consumer Science; AS, BA, MA

Parish, Pubic School, Home school experience:

Art- K-12, Montana, ND, KS, NM, Floral Design- ID, Interior Design, Artist and teacher, since 1985

Music- Music pianist, Naschitti; Christmas Program, pianist St Mary's Parish, Tohatchi; Elementary P-5, David Skeets; Piano pedagogy 1-adults MT, ID, NM, 9-12 Classical Band – Chorus, soloists, and Instruments, performance, Tohatchi; Formal Choir- Sacred Heart Cathedral -Choir; NDSU; marching & Symphonic Band, Choir and Chorus- Mott High School, numerous Art Shows, Students and personal. Lots of High-level Awards.

Family and Consumer Science-

Legion of Mary, Vice President, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Formal and informal Meals dinners,

Book Bible Studies, Sunday School, meals support and planning, Missal and Hymnal reverence, Group Rosary, Floral Arrangements. One highest level award for leadership in ND.

Thank- you for nominating me to St Barbara's, Parish. With the inspiration and guidance of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I am pleased to accept your nomination.

March 26, 2026

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Swindler". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.