Christ Our Light Unified Pastoral Council Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Holy Redeemer Parish Hall

1. Prayer & Reflection

Opening prayer read by Linda Baker. Reflection and sharing as a group over Colossians 3: 12-17. Intercessions were offered up by all followed by an "Our Father."

2. Family Leadership Evening of Reflection with Jeremy Helmes 7/21/26

a. Follow up questions and discussion- No other questions or discussion.

b. A clarification of data – Christ Our Light 75% Catholic versus 17% Nationally. Father explained the statistics. The data was going off of families instead of individuals.

3. Beacons of Light Annual Report for Christ Our Light

a. Review the Annual Report form- Nick Wilker went through the newly updated Annual Report reviewing all 6 principles which include Eucharist, Church, Leadership, Stewardship, Evangelization, and Love in Action.

Eucharist:

~COL held the first server swim party which included 130 kids
~For the America 250th Celebration,holy hours were celebrated at each church and promoted family prayer.
~Recently, two large Christ our Light gatherings were held. One included a gathering of our religious educators, and the second was a youth spirit night for all high school students

Church: What are we doing outside of our parish boundaries?
~Calming the Storm and Faithful friends (two new ministries starting within one parish with the goal of expanding to all parishes)
~Priests- go out once a month to have mass at the Shrine, have mass monthly at Elmwood, and monthly at Heritage Manor (Care Core) in Minster. The priests and lay ministers also go to the hospital to pray with those who are admitted.

Leadership:
~Leslie Tyler, Director of Finances, currently helps drive this ship.
~COL continues to demonstrate a strong thirst for unity
~All COL staff have quarterly networking meetings with monthly staff meetings at each office
~It was brought up by members of the council, that Christ Our Light still seems to be understaffed regarding human resources which could be due to budget constraints

Stewardship:
~There is a stewardship Commission Team- working on a QR code that could take you directly to COL website which houses our ministries
~A new COL website has been created and is in progress by Gail Mueller, Director of Communications

Evangelization:
~Nick Wilker is serving as interim Director of Evangelization along with Leslie Tyler. A new Director of Evangelization has been hired, but remains confidential until the current employer has been notified.
~We have been excelling in youth evangelization in COL, especially with our new CRE hires
~Discussion was had about CRE burn out- we have good leaders who need continually supported. Especially our smaller parish CRE's, who are only paid for 10 hours/week
~Hopeful to have a new Evangelization team in the future

Love in Action:
~Our toughest area when it comes to adhering to the Archdiocesan principles
~Helping Hands for Christ Program- Father Mark took this program over this year with over 70 people to show up to assist those in need
~Son's Ministry- serving locally and outside of the state
~Religious Education Staff- currently working on putting together a special needs religious education program
~Active Bereavement Committee

Administration:
~Our new Director of Communication has begun creating a new COL website

In Summary:
~Yes, we do have a Family Leadership Team which consists of our Director of Communication, Director of Worship, Father Ken, Leslie Tyler- Director of Finance, and the new Director of Evangelization
~Currently, each parish is working on their Deferred Maintenance Plan with the help of FIRST ONSITE
~Our biggest challenge continues to be staff needs and staff changes
~Father Ken has been spending a lot of time and energy on the rebuilding of St John's Church
~The Family Unity Discernment has been and will continue to be a lot of work but also yield some large fruit
~Financially- currently, there are ongoing capital projects for multiple parishes as well as a capital campaign for St John's church and other parish fundriasing.
Overall- good progress has been made in hiring, and we will continue to support our ministry areas.

4. Family Unity Discernment (FUD 2.0) 2026-27 UPDATED

a. Weblink https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/parish-vitality/family-unity-discernment

b. The Forms:

i. Family Financial Data & Deferred Maintenance Excel Checklist- goal is to have these completed by the end of the year. Side note- First ONSITEt has been overwhelmed with all 200 parishes of the archdiocese. Use caution if requesting to use them, but may be wise to start using our own parish maintenance teams.

c. The Time Line January – March 2027 – NEW DATES

i. Deanery Day - Saturday, January 16, 2027 9 AM – 12:30 PM, Sacred Heart, McCartyville- new, updated date and times. Father Ken is asking for the leadership team, unified pastoral council, and members of staff to attend.

ii. Reflect Synod – Saturday, February 27, 2027 9 AM – 3:30 PM Knights Hall, Maria Stein- newly updated one day event. The Archdiocese will come in and lead. This will just be COL. Father Ken is asking for the leadership team, unified pastoral council, and members of staff to attend.

5. Parish Mission – Advent 2026

a. "Dynamic Deacon" Harold Burke-Sivers has been scheduled for November 29–30 and December 1, 2026. First session November 29th starts at Minster for the youth and adults, the 30th will be at Holy Redeemer, and December 1st will take place at Precious Blood.

6. Christ Our Light Updates

a. Family of Parishes Updates- Please encourage everyone to go to the Synod to give your input. We have a Synod gathering this Saturday in Wapak. This is a great way to have a voice for our church. Nick spoke about a call today from the Archdiocese with positive updates and numbers with the previous Synod gatherings.

b. Staff Updates- A Director of Evangelization has been selected, but a name cannot be released until he/she communicates this to their current employee. Holy Redeemer hired a part time, 15-20 hours per week, Coordinator of Youth Activities.

c. Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule -Christmas Mass schedule is out, attached to Agenda. One change for Marion Catholic Community, will be a 3pm mass at Precious Blood and 5:30pm mass for St Johns at Precious Blood to give an extra half hour for getting parishioners in and out. St Joe likes to keep their 8:00 AM time. Smaller parishes had a slight rotation of times to rotate equally.

7. Christ Our Light Family of Parishes Events & Updates

Holy Redeemer: Met last month; Some maintenance issues were completed which included security cameras installed, a new washer/dryer installed in the rectory, and heating/cooling repairs. A financial report was given and currently stands about $9,000 ahead.

Precious Blood: Met the end of July. The roof project was completed in May. Bricks were tuck pointed and sealed within the last month, and the east and west entrance ceilings were updated. Nicole Homan was hired as the new CRE for Precious Blood and religious education began on 9/9/2026. Some new partitions were purchased to help separate some classrooms in the church basement.

St Johns: Parish Council meeting recently- Besides the building of the new church, focus has been on the ministries and getting them in order. With the church, work is continuing on the insurance settlement with the hopes of a settlement within a month or two. Two meetings were held over the summer with parishioners to begin identifying the components of the new church. These components will determine what size the church will be, and where it will be located. This will then determine the cost and how to fundraise. Interviews have been set up for campaign companies with the focus on St John Parishioners, but also allowing for others to be involved in giving. 2029-2030 is the goal for completion.

St Sebastian: A new roof was installed. FIRST ONSITE assisted with 1, 3, 5, and 10 year maintenance plans. Parishioners are donating some of their time to fix some broken stations of the cross. Brick and mortar work needs to be completed yet this year. There is discussion of

getting new carpet in the church, and they are working on ideas to try and replace this within the next year. A parish party is taking place this Sunday at Chickasaw Park which hasn't been done in years.

Nativity: Parish Picnic is also this Sunday with donuts and coffee at the CFL hall after the 8:30 AM mass. Wind Damage occurred this spring to the church and continues to be on the list of insurance items to get fixed. New downspout tiles and basement tiles going in this fall. Some new work on the rectory with soffit, downspouts, and gutters also being installed. An Eagle scout project was completed which included some landscaping and repainting of the church sign.

St Rose: no updates. The parish council met Tuesday evening to discuss several matters of business including: officer ballots, CCD, building and grounds maintenance, heard the financial report, and possibly adding a fall cleanup date.

St. Augustine: Rectory recently remodeled for the priest's home. Church windows were repaired and storm windows replaced. The security package for the church is now complete. Concrete on the North side of the church is also now completed, and concrete on the south side is to be done this fall. Steeple project- fundraising goal with $950,000 raised. Wellman brothers backed out of completing this project which led to the Durable Restoration Company of Columbus to re-estimate the cost raising the price to 1.4 million. Some extra fundraising came in, and the church is contributing 150k to complete the newly estimated cost. St Augustine recently took over a contract in the Halls of Hanover for the gym space and plans to use this for events.

St. Joseph: Council meeting held a few weeks ago. Maintenance day is this Saturday- Projects to be completed include; painting the downstairs of the school house, and replacing counter tops giving the space some updates. New landscaping is to be done around the church. As far as the rectory- Parish Council are getting quotes on major fixes. If these updates are too costly, they will get an estimate to tear down the whole building. They are also getting new quotes for the school house roof. The parking lot has been updated.

8. Concluding Prayer - Beacons of Light Prayer.

9. Next Meeting – Thursday, November 12, 2026 @ 7pm- Eyink shop in Marion Industrial Park. Turn East onto Booster Drive off of SR 716 and then turn right onto Team Dr (between the Edge & Winans Coffee). Go to the cul-de-sac and it will be the 1st building on the right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Father Ken, Linda Baker, Erin Niekamp, Dan Fortkamp, Tess Mescher, Adam Koesters, Nick Wilker, Barb Kahlig, Jenny Albers, Steve Gruber, Stacie Enneking, Pam Meyer, Abby Moeller, Mitch Schwieterman, and Amy Bergman.

Christ Our Light

Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday PM, December 24, 2026

3:00 PM – Holy Redeemer
3:00 PM – St. Augustine
3:00 PM – Precious Blood
3:00 PM – St. Rose
5:00 PM – Holy Redeemer
5:00 PM – St. Augustine
5:30 PM – St. John (at PB)
7:30 PM – St. Augustine
7:30 PM – St. Sebastian
10:30 PM – St. John (at PB)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday AM, December 25, 2026

8:00 AM – St. Augustine
8:00 AM – St. Joseph
9:00 AM – Precious Blood
9:00 AM – Nativity
10:00 AM – Holy Redeemer
10:00 AM – St. Augustine
11:00 AM – St. John (at PB)

MARY MOTHER OF GOD, NEW YEAR'S EVE

Thursday PM, December 31, 2026

3:00 PM – St. Augustine
4:30 PM – Holy Redeemer
5:00 PM – St. John (at PB)

MARY MOTHER OF GOD, NEW YEAR'S DAY

Friday PM, January 1, 2027

9:00 AM – Precious Blood
10:00 AM – Holy Redeemer
10:00 AM – St. Augustine
11:00 AM – St. John (at PB)
11:00 AM – St. Rose