



## St. John Fisher - Parish Council

### Minutes from Meeting – May 22, 2025

| Parish Staff/Trustees     |   | Parish Council                  |   | Other Attendees |   |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b><u>Ex officio</u></b>  |   | Jim Castellani                  | √ | Carlos Pina     | √ |
| Rev. Alvin J. LeBlanc     | √ | Pedro Cristavao                 | √ |                 |   |
| Sr. Dcn. Em. John McKaig  | √ | Barbara Gaudette                | √ |                 |   |
| Dcn. Bill Gilles          | √ | Tim Geary                       | √ |                 |   |
| Marlene Luebeck (Trustee) | R | Nancy Gianetti                  | √ |                 |   |
| Peter Yorio (Trustee)     | R | Julie Groene                    | R |                 |   |
| <b><u>Non-voting</u></b>  |   | Trevor Hooker                   | √ |                 |   |
| Janice Reska (DMM)        | R | Paul Kriksciun (Vice President) |   |                 |   |
| Cindy Bryan (CFF)         | √ | Barbara Meyer (President)       | √ |                 |   |
| Helena Thomas (CFF, DYM)  | R | Colin Tracey                    | R |                 |   |
| Todd Gianetti             | √ | Nancy Visco                     | R |                 |   |
|                           |   | Christina Warchut               | √ |                 |   |
|                           |   | Matt Wilson (Secretary)         | √ |                 |   |
| √=present      R=regrets  |   |                                 |   |                 |   |

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – PC President, Barbara Meyer **7:01 PM**
- II. **OPENING PRAYER** – Father LeBlanc
- III. **REVIEW MINUTES** of **March 20, 2025** – All
  - Barbara Meyer provided a markup of the minutes. Jim Castellani made a motion to accept the March 20, 2025 minutes with Barbara’s changes, Pedro Cristavao seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with changes by voice vote.
- IV. **PARISHIONERS’ COMMENTS** – All
  - The Parish Council thanked Trevor Hooker for his contributions as Youth Adviser to the Parish Council. Jim Castellani mentioned that Trevor had been awarded the KoC scholarship, and would be attending Boston College in the Fall. Barbara Meyer presented Trevor with a going-away present, and Trevor thanked Barbara and the Parish Council.
  - In an email from May 20<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Meyer wrote:
    - “To add to St. John Fisher’s “white smoke” moment this past weekend, as Father Al announced, our new and full-time dedicated Pastor will be Rev. George Mukuka. Knowing the strength of our parish, our programs, our leadership and our commitment, it is truly an honor for all of us to welcome Father George to our active and dedicated SJF Parish Family. Recognizing also that once you are in “the family”, you are in for life - so although Father Al is preparing for his well-earned and anticipated retirement, we have gratitude for all that was accomplished with Father’s leadership over the past 2 1/2 years.”
- V. **DEACON’S COMMENTS** – Deacon Bill Gilles and Senior Deacon Emeritus John McKaig
  - Deacon Bill is offering six sessions of Adult Faith Formation (Intro to Bible Study), and will have two remaining sessions in June.

- Deacon John said that it helps to hear the daily readings on the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops' website. Regarding the readings, Deacon John said he asks the question, "What word or phrase jumps out at you?" and "What is the Lord trying to say to you?"
- Deacon John said that a Deacon from Scranton recently spoke about suicide, and how it is important to make connections with people to show that you care. Deacon John said that when he offers the sign of peace, he makes sure to make eye contact, and to make sure that people know he truly means it, and that he cares about them.

VI. **PASTOR'S COMMENTS** – Father LeBlanc

- Father LeBlanc said that Father Mukuka has been with the Hartford Archdiocese for 14 years and is the Judicial Vicar. Father Mukuka had previously served as the Pastor at St. Stephen's in Hamden. Father Makuka was introduced as the new Pastor of St John Fisher at the last Deanery meeting.
- Father LeBlanc said that although there has recently been an audit, the Archdiocese also performs audits when there is a change of Pastors.
- The missionary that came to St John Fisher last summer will be come back again this summer.

VII. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ABOUT MINISTRY/COMMITTEE SUCCESSES** – all

- Barbara Meyer asked the staff and ministry/committee leaders to reflect on the successes of their areas. She asked, "What are you most proud of? How do you (and your committees) know a positive difference has been made/who do your efforts benefit?"
- Barbara started the discussion by saying that she is grateful that we have a Women's Prayer Group. She also said that Nurturing Seedlings helped form connections with young parents, and their families. Barbara said that the Blood Drive reached out to the Marlborough community outside the Church and helped foster connections with non-parishioners.
- Jim Castellani discussed RCIA/OCIA, and that he sees the fruits of our labor whenever he sees past participants involved with the Church. Jim said that delegating sessions to guest teachers results in higher retention of RCIA/OCIA participants because they get to know more members of the Parish, and parishioners get to know them.
- Jim also said that the members of the Music Ministry participate because they love doing it, and the members are very close. Jim said that he has been a member of the Men's Prayer Group since 2006, and the friendships the members have developed have had an impact on everyone in the group.
- Jim Castellani said that there are new members coming into the KoC who are also coming to church. Jim said that they recently had a speaker, David Emhoff, Director of Evangelization for KoC, talking about the Gospel. Jim discussed a set of 17 videos titled "Into the Breach" offered on the KoC website about men's role in the Church.
- Barbara Gaudette said that the Book Club started with 3 members and has grown to 19. She said that the books the group selected all have a connection to spiritual life, and are not necessarily limited to books centered on Catholicism.
- Barbara G. said that she is taking over as chair from Mary Horrigan in the Comfort and Warmth Ministry (a.k.a., the Prayer Shawl Ministry). She said that they have been involved with Warm Up America, and have donated hats and scarves to the KoC Coat Drive.
- Cindy Bryan said that Family Faith Formation is trying to create more family activities, and is looking to add another class during the month just for kids. She said that parents, when asked what they want from FFF, want more study-focused classes, but kids want more hands-on things, e.g., acting out the Last Supper during Holy Week.
- Tim Geary said the parishioners were pleased with the reintroduction of the Holy Blood, and that it enriched Mass. Barbara Meyer, Father LeBlanc, and Deacon John discussed having the Eucharistic ministers with the Host step forward and have the minister with the Holy Blood stand closer to the altar in the middle.

## VIII.

### **OLD BUSINESS – All**

- PC Constitution and Bylaws – Barbara Meyer said that when she reviewed the Parish Council constitution and the by-laws, they state that parishioners have to be 18 to vote in parish-wide elections for those interested in being on the Parish Council. While, if on the Parish Council, they can vote even if they are not 18. This was the follow-up to being sure our youth leaders on Parish Council have a vote at the table, and they do.
- Barbara said that the Parish Council has always existed at the Pastor's discretion and in support of the Pastor's efforts, and she will discuss with Father Mukuka the plans for September when the Council starts back up again. Barbara would like the leaders of the Ministries/Committees to help put together a binder for Father Mukuka with an overview of each Ministry/Committee, e.g., events, participation, responsibilities, etc. Jim Castellani has already written a summary of the OCIA for the binder.
- Regarding outreach to parishioners, Tim Geary suggested having something after Saturday Mass that is equivalent to the coffee hours after Sunday Masses, e.g., wine and cheese.
- Barbara Meyer suggested that we create reusable name tags for greeters. They should have a large font to make them legible. Todd is working with Barbara on this effort.
- Barbara said that there are plans to send out another postcard inviting people to the Parish Picnic in June. A flyer will also be posted on Facebook and sent out by email. Last time 615 postcards cost roughly \$500 for printing and postage.
- The picnic will include live music from Jim Henderschett, Janice Reska, and Paul Kriksciun. Christina Warchut will organize the food, and others will organize the games/activities. At the 10:30 Mass before the picnic, recent graduates will be acknowledged. In the past this has only been for high school graduates, but we could also include graduates of college, trade schools, or military training.

## IX.

### **NEW BUSINESS – All**

- Parish Picnic is scheduled for June 22, and Father LeBlanc's Retirement Party is scheduled for June 29.
- Gil needs someone to help learn how to update and post content on the Parish website, which will be migrating to the Archdiocese platform this year.
- Request for information about staff areas and ministries/committees in preparation for Father Mukuka's arrival. Barbara will supply a brief outline to be completed to give Father an overview of our various programs and responsibilities.

## X. COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS

### **PASTORAL CARE**

- **Christian Outreach Updates** - Barbara Meyer from May 2025 Christian Outreach Report:
  - **Successful Lenten, Easter, Easter Season Programs:**
    - **Journey Home “Easter Baskets”** were filled with household/kitchen items and/or cleaning products – at least 8 large baskets were filled by parishioners,
    - **American Red Cross Blood Drive March 22nd** was another wonderful success under the leadership of Donna Sawan. A second ARC blood drive this year is scheduled for October 2025,
    - **Two more Drive-Thru Café opportunities (March and May)** for the patrons of the Marlborough Foodbank under the leadership of Melissa Jordan,

- **Another successful Sunday Supper at St. Vincent dePaul** in Middletown on April 27th under the leadership of Nancy Gianetti,
- **Continued local weekly food drives** (John Noel) and monthly sandwich making, collection and delivery to St. Vincent dePaul (Doug Meyer).
- **Month of May Baby Shower** - we are hosting a Baby Shower to benefit Caring Families in Willimantic (a birth support organization helping young parents) and Sacred Sweeties (an initiative aligned with pregnant and new moms who are incarcerated). This effort runs through the month of May.
- **Upcoming Efforts** – We are discussing and finalizing a Journey Home gently used household/furniture drive in June and we will again support the needs of the Marlborough Elementary School with backpacks and school supplies for the new school season (collect will be in July and early August).
- **We currently have 24 members and are always in need of new members** – we typically meet once a month, Sept – June (with December as a Christmas card writing gathering for the bereaved and June a social gathering to wrap up the season together).
- **Community Garden** – Peg Filloramo from May 2025 Community Garden report.
  - The St. John Fisher Community Garden has just started its 10th year of growing and donating all of the vegetables grown to Marlborough's Food Bank. A very dedicated and small volunteer team meets on Mondays at five o'clock to tend to the garden. We have donated over 3,000 lbs. of food since starting to help feed those in need right here in our community.
  - This past weekend I spoke at each Mass to let our parish know about the work we do and to invite anyone to join in and make a difference in the lives of others. The garden is filled with vegetable donations from many sources and we rarely have to purchase seedlings for it. The fence needed some repair this year and that was taken care of by my husband, John.
  - Our volunteer team looks forward to a prosperous growing season and hopes that we might see some new faces at the garden this year.
- **Lending Library and Book Club** – Barbara Gaudette from May 2025 Lending Library Committee report
  - The SJF Lending Library Committee continues to process donations. Upright flyers at the entrances to the church encouraged parishioners to borrow books from our library as part of their Lenten Journey. Easter books for children have been available to families during this season. Books about Mary are available in the chapel as well as in the library.
  - We will sponsor the SJF Book Club's discussion of *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. New members are always welcome.
- **Comfort and Warmth (Prayer Shawl) Ministry** – Barbara Gaudette
  - Barbara Gaudette is replacing Mary Horrigan, who is moving to Texas, as chairperson.

## LITURGICAL

- **Altar Serving Ministry** – No report
- **Ministers of Communion** – Tom Reiser and Peter Yorio from May 2025 Ministers of Communion report
  - Eventually, we would like to have two ministers scheduled for every Friday. This would allow the ministers to work together, either going as a pair or splitting up their coverage, which ever works

best for them. This also affords coverage if someone runs into an issue or conflict. Our recruitment efforts to find additional volunteers for this ministry is ongoing.

- Every Friday, we are currently visiting 3 to 4 home bound individuals, By The River (both locations) and the Marlborough Health & Rehab Center.
- We continue with a 5 person/team rotation for the Ministers of Communion coverage:
  1. First Friday on the month, Melissa Jordan,
  2. Second Friday of the month, Sue Hurley.
  3. Third Friday of the month, Peter Yorio.
  4. Fourth Friday of the month, Tom Reiser.
  5. Fifth Friday of the month Barbara Meyer.
- Additional ministers: Lile Couture, Gil Thompson, Jim Castellani, Jen O'Neill, and Julie Groene
- If you have family or friends in either By The River or Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center who have a desire to receive Communion or receive prayer, please let us (or Heather) know and we will do our best to make sure we reach out to them while we are making our rounds.
  
- **Liturgical Committee** – No report
  
- **Reader and Greeter Ministry** – Julie Groene from May 2025 Report
  - **Lent:** Considerable time was put in behind the scenes for creating the schedule for Holy Week and the second quarter schedule for the year. Thanks to everyone who volunteered for the feet washing during the Holy Thursday service. Continued thanks to Paulette Adams for her hard work and dedication to this scheduling task.
  - **Outreach:** A flyer was electronically sent to all Faith Formation Families asking them to consider becoming a greeter at mass as a family activity. Additionally, a short written piece was included for several weeks in the bulleting during lent inviting all parishioners to consider this ministry. This has yielded one response from a family. Next steps would include reposting this on Facebook and asking for recommendations from Cindy Bryan and Helena Thomas in order to verbally speak with people to invite them to join this ministry.
  - Reader and Greeter Numbers as of May, 2025:
    - Readers: 15
    - Greeters: 14
  - It is important to note that there is crossover between the two categories with many readers also helping as greeters at mass. There is additional crossover with this ministry and people serving as eucharistic ministers.
  - Thanks to *Mary Horrigan* for her longstanding commitment to the reader ministry at both the weekday and weekend masses. Additionally, Mary ran the prayer shawl ministry. God bless her she moves this month to Texas to live closer to her daughter and grandson. We have been blessed to have Mary as a longstanding member of the St. John Fisher Parish. She will be missed.
  - Congratulations to *Trevor Hooker* who graduates from RHAM High School in June. He is an excellent reader and greeter.
  
- **Music Ministry** – Director Janice Reska from May 2025 Music Ministry Report

- Our Adult Choir began rehearsing for the Holy Week services in March and sang for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and two Easter Sunday masses. The Adult Choir members rehearsed tirelessly to prepare for all of these masses, and parishioners seemed pleased with the music.
- Jim Henderschedt played and sang for the First Holy Communion service on May 3. The music was lively and, hopefully, inspirational. The children sang a song after receiving their first communion, *This Little Light of Mine*.
- The choir has now grown to 14 members, which is a wonderful blessing. Choir members volunteer their time and effort for weekly rehearsals and masses, which is very much appreciated. As always, we welcome new choir members and cantors to sing with us.
- The Adult Choir will finish its choral season with Father Al's last mass at St. John Fisher on June 29. Many people take vacations during the summer, so it is not practical to continue with choir rehearsals over the summer; however, several choir members have expressed interest in singing at mass occasionally during the summer. The hymn selections will be familiar songs from the missalette since we will not have a full choir and choir practice will not be held.

## EDUCATION & FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- **Family Faith Formation (Grades K,1,3,4,5,6)** – Cindy Bryan from May 2025 Faith Formation Report
  - The Family Faith ended their “school year” during the month of April. We had our final Family night with both parents and children on Saturday, April 5. The children entered the hall walking down a red carpet as I cheered them on. The idea was to give them a little reenactment of the events of Holy Week beginning with Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We then watched videos, read excerpts from the Bible and reenacted some of the events, including washing their feet. I read and discussed each station of the Cross when it came time to discuss the crucifixion. We snacked on resurrection rolls and grape juice. We ended the evening with a video of the empty tomb. My hope was to give them a better understanding of the traditions and points expressed during Holy Week.
  - Our next event was to host the final Soup and Stations of Lent. Unfortunately, many of the children excited to come were sick that day and were not able to come but we still had a good turnout, a few children that had never attended before. The children who volunteered to read did a fantastic job!
  - We ended the year with the Egg-Stravaganza. We had more children participate this year than last, even with the town egg hunt on the same day. There were games, face painting, refreshments, and lots of fun! A big thank you to the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders who volunteered to help at the event! A few of the families participated in the “Chalk the Walk” before they left.
  - With the school year ending, we now turn our attention to planning the Vacation Bible Camp. This year’s theme is “Superheroes of the Bible” . I will be asking for volunteers to help with planning and of course helping out during camp week, which is Monday, August 11- Friday August 15, 9am-12pm.

## 2nd Grade and 9th Grade Faith Formation – Helena Thomas from May 2025 report

- 2nd Grade Sacramental Year:
  - The 2nd Grade Faith Formation class had their retreat on April 12. We had four stations setup again this year in the church hall: making a family name felt banner for their pew, decorating a felt fish with their name to be displayed on the “Jesus the Fisherman” hanging felt banner in the church, identifying the sacred vessels and other liturgical objects as they toured the church, and a little coloring of Bible events worksheets. The children also practiced receiving Holy Communion with unconsecrated hosts and

singing My Little Light of Mine. We all finally enjoyed some cake to celebrate this momentous occasion of receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time.

- The children rehearsed for the big day on Friday, May 2, after school. Janice and Jim Henderschedt did a great job with the kids while rehearsing My Little Light of Mine!
  - They received their 1st Holy Communion on May 3 at 10:00am. Twelve children, including one 9th grade teenager, received for the first time. The 9th grader is from my Confirmation class. This year there were eight 2nd graders, one 3rd grader, one 4th grader, one 5th grader, and one 9th grader. It was a beautiful Mass, sunny day despite the forecasted rain, and the children once again sat together as a group and behaved perfectly. All the readers did a splendid job as well!
  - The following day, Sunday May 4, was the May Crowning Mass. Seven children came to this Mass. One of the girls crowned the small statue of Blessed Mary in front of the altar. We had beautiful pink roses this year to remind us of Blessed Mother's gentle and sincere love she has for all of us.!
- 9th Grade Confirmation Year:
- The teens attended their mandatory Confirmation retreat on April 6 at the Holy Family Retreat Center located in West Hartford. It was a really nice experience for them. Father Federico was the first speaker who spoke about his past life as an ESPN editor and his encounter with Christ that ultimately led him to the priesthood. He told the teens that being a "good Catholic" means having an encounter with Christ which doesn't mean knowing a bunch of bullet points about Him. After your encounter, you emerge as an entirely new creation because of your relationship with Jesus. An encounter involves meeting the real person of Christ, not your parents' Jesus but your Jesus, and this involves truly submitting yourself over to Him. He ended on identifying two practical changes they need to make: (1) go to Mass and receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and (2) pray by having a serious conversation with the real person of Jesus who loves you.
  - There were four stations. First was spending time reevaluating the things they thought were so important in their lives, second was a guided meditation involving their personal encounter with Jesus on the beach, third was answering various moral questions by physically stepping out or back in line for "yes" and "no," and fourth was Reconciliation. The retreat also included meatballs and pasta dinner, salad, and cookies!
  - On April 27, the 9th grade completed their last Service Event for this year which benefited the House of Bread day shelter for the homeless in Hartford. The teens brought in t-shirts, socks, and underwear. The parishioners also donated a significant amount of these items as well. All items have been dropped off with Sr. Theresa at the shelter who expressed her sincere thanks.
  - On March 29 and 30 after all Masses, the teens held another AHM Youth and Family Services bake sale. The families really came through again with a large assortment of baked goods. This year the teens collected \$668 and a check was presented at the AHM board meeting by Pete Yorio.

#### **Youth Ministry – Helena Thomas from May 2025 report**

- We continue to join forces with Mike and Lisa Ciarrocchi who run the Youth Ministry program at the Church of the Holy Family held at their St. Columba meeting site in Columbia on Ct. 66. There was one additional meeting held on April 5 titled "For You" which was a personal encounter for the teens of Jesus' suffering and dying on the Cross. We had a crown of thorns which was created to closely resemble Jesus' actual Crown of Thorns with very long, sharp spikes. We also had a nail that resembled one that was most likely used and a scourging whip that one of the dad's created based on historical documentation of its dimensions and hardware. I shared our STJF cross for the evening to help the teens contemplate the Crucifixion. The teens

were able to really reflect on what Jesus did for us, what that actually entailed, and why. The evening ended with how Jesus doesn't want us to feel guilty for what He went through on our behalf because He willingly chose to suffer and die for us out of love. Our response to this should also be with love in our hearts as we die a little to ourselves to give to someone else. Jesus died for us, so let us live for Him. Thus far, only one STJF teen attended a meeting. But I am hopeful more will attend in the near future.

- We planned another meeting for May 10 but unfortunately had to cancel due to low interest. This meeting was going to be about Pope Francis and what was coming next with the Conclave. Since Pope Leo XIV was elected by then, we would have talked about him as well.
- We plan on having summer Youth Ministry meetings. Our next one is planned for June 14 with a core team planning meeting the week before. Weather permitting, I think we're having a bonfire on the 14th!
- **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults/Adult Confirmation** — Jim Castellani from May 2025 Report
  - OCIA: No activity. 4 Inquirers during 2024.
  - Adult Confirmation - No active participants

## ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Finance Council** – David Lenihan from May 2025 Finance Council report
  - Key financial information for the ten-months period 7/1/24 to 4/30/25:
    - Actual YTD Weekly offertory collections show a small shortfall vs budget of about (\$400), a great improvement over 2/28/25 report.
    - Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners, the church's annual collection has now grown to \$66,800 which exceeded our goal by \$8,800.
    - On the expense side, we are over budget in our church repair and maintenance account by \$12,500 primarily due \$4,300 in unexpected HVAC repairs and a planned expenditure of \$10,000 for the painting of the exterior of the church. The painting was covered by donations to the Annual Collection noted above.
    - Total expenditures are over budget by about \$5,200.
    - We have begun work on the security infrastructure project that includes installation of 8 outside surveillance cameras with monitoring equipment, installation of security system and office door upgrades with panic bar and electronic door release . The total project is budgeted at \$49,900 and will be fully reimbursed by a grant from the State of Connecticut.
    - Please note that last year the Archdiocese of Hartford changed its fiscal year end from December 31 to June 30. As a result, we will again close our books on June 30, 2025 and prepare a new budget for the next fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
- **Maintenance Committee** – Peter Yorio from May Maintenance Committee Report
  - Door lock updates - please email Pete if you haven't already responded to my note on keys.
  - The new AED we received from the Marlborough Ambulance Association that we planned to keep as a spare has been returned to them.

- Volunteers are needed to help move Fr. Al and clean up the rectory to welcome Fr. Makuka. Please email Pete @ [czyforegl@aol.com](mailto:czyforegl@aol.com) if you are willing to assist with moving and or cleaning.
- **Communications/Social Media** – no report
- **Web Ministry** – Gil Thompson from May 2025 Web Ministry Report
  - The Archdiocese will be migrating parish websites over to their platform. The goal is to get parish websites using a "standard" design and format. The content of the website will still be driven by parish activities and will continue to be maintained by the parish. We will be limited to 10 pages, which is basically more pages than we currently have. I am guiding the transition to the new format.
  - What we need to do while waiting for this to be complete:
    - Someone other than me needs to know how to update the new website. How to enter articles and so on. The new website will use Google Calendar to enter events which most people already know about.
    - I've received some materials and information for the transfer. I do not have a timeline for completion yet, so I can't answer very many questions.
    - I will be reaching out to STJFChurch.org email user. We will be losing those email addresses prior to the migration. I am assuming, but don't know for sure, that email addresses will be available via the Archdiocese.

## PARISH LIFE

- **Social Committee** – Christina Warchut from Mary 2025 Social Committee Report
  - Our last Coffee Hour for this year was held on April 27. We will start up again in September.
  - The Spring Tea was held on May 4. From the comments and feedback I received, it was enjoyed and everyone had a nice time. We collected \$400 in ticket sales. We received \$50.00 in donations. And also received a \$10.00 contribution for the purchase of Filtered Water. Our total expenses were \$263.32.
  - The Parish Picnic will be held on June 22 from 12:00-3:00. Sign up sheets will be at the church entrances Memorial Day Weekend. We will be celebrating our 50th year as a parish, Fr. Al's retirement and recognizing our High School Graduates and College Graduates. Helena, Cindy, and Theresa are planning some fun games and activities for all who attend. Sign up sheets will request side dishes and help for set up, food service, grilling and cleanup. Jared Sterns is providing pulled pork and a flattop griddle. We will need an additional grill for the hot dogs. Live music by Jim Henderschedt, Janice and Paul. Recognition of 2025 graduates at the 10:30 Mass prior to the picnic. Please spread the word!
- **Knights of Columbus** – Jim Castellani from May 2025 report
  - 2024 KofC Scholarship – The Scholarship winners have been selected and notified. The winners are Trevor Hooker and Isabella Wiktorowicz. I presentation is tentatively planned for Sunday, June 1, 2025, after the 10:30 am mass. Postings will be on the SJF Website and the parish Facebook page.
  - New 4th Degree Knights – n 2025 4 Knights of our Council were exemplified into the 4th Degree completing their commitments to the Church and the Knights principles of "Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism." Carlos Pina attended the exemplification in New York City at St.

Patrick's Cathedral in January. Rodney Madore, Andre Lepine and Jim Castellani attended the ceremony in April at St. Mary's in New Haven. 2025 is the 125th Anniversary of the origin of the 4th Degree Knights.

- 2025 12th Annual Golf Fundraiser – Mark your calendars. Thursday, September 18, 2025, 12:30pm tee-off, at Blackledge CC. We need golfers, sponsors, raffle donors, cash patrons and volunteers. Please participate. It's not too early to plan for another GREAT outing!
- JOIN THE KNIGHTS – Contact Carlos Pina or any Knight. Informational materials are available in the vestibule.
- **Men's Prayer Group** – Jim Castellani from May 2025 report
  - Regular Gatherings - We continue to meet in-person the 1st Thursday (7pm) and 3rd Saturday (7am) of each month. (NOTE: Meetings continue throughout the year.) Contacts - All are welcome to participate, just contact Jim Castellani or Pete Yorio to get on the mailing list or to have questions answered about the Group. Just come to any session and see if the experience is or you. God Bless.
  - Stations-of-the-Cross – Very successful rite this year. 15 men from the Men's Group, the Knights and men of the parish processed through the Station's rite. 49 people were in attendance. The Seder Soup Supper went very well, as well with 29 people joining us. Pete Y was able to link in Rodney and Julie Madore from their home via cell phone. Thank you, Pete!
  - Bookmarks and Mission Cards – Both of these are located at the Exits of the church and are FREE to take. The latest bookmark offers the encouraging statement – “*The Messiah is among you.*”
  - Men's Retreat – The Men of the parish attended our annual retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford on April 4-6, 2025. Good turnout. We had 11 men plus both Fr Al and Fr Sas joined us. This year's theme was:
    - 2024-25 Theme: In My Love, Abide  
*Jesus calls us to remain in love as the branches remain with the vine for life and sustenance. We know that Jesus prayed often and taught his disciples to do the same. Pope Francis has named this year a "Year of Prayer." He described it as "a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world." Since prayer is a means of holding that connection between humanity and God, we invite you to come and explore the depths of a life of prayer and learn ways to maintain the sacred connection to God through Christ, the true vine. Conferences and workshops will be offered along with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Celebration of the Eucharist.*
  - Mark your calendars for our next retreat scheduled for April 10-12, 2026. (FYI, Easter Sunday is April 5th.) All men of the parish, as well as their male family members, friends, and guests, are welcome to join us. Registration can be accomplished online at <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org>, OR contact Carlos Pina of St. John Fisher, our parish recruiting captain. NOTE: A few scholarships are available, contact Carlos Pina.
- **Women's Prayer Group** – Barbara Meyer from May 2025 report
  - **We continue to meet monthly throughout the year on the last Tuesday of the month in the evening.** We currently have 20 active members and are always welcoming new women to the group.
  - **We opted to change our book of choice to the 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory** (that was handed out to all parishioners at Advent). We are unpacking the various readings and reflections as a group.

▪ **Our meetings include the following:**

- (1) optional social at 6:30 pm, prior to the meeting which begins at 7:00 pm,
- (2) opening prayer,
- (3) shared prayer intentions,
- (4) book/reading discussion,
- (5) prayer sharing to have each person take home a prayer intention from the group to pray during the month and
- (6) closing prayer. We meet for an hour and a half.

XI. **NEXT MEETING** - Thursday, **September 18, 2025 (7:00-8:30 PM)**  
Email Committee Reports to the Parish Council email list by **September 11, 2025**

XII. **ADJOURNMENT – 8:37 PM**

XIII. **CLOSING PRAYER** – Offered by Senior Deacon Emeritus John McKaig