



St. John Fisher - Parish Council

Minutes from Meeting – November 20, 2025

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – PC President, Barbara Meyer **6:59 PM**
- II. **OPENING PRAYER** – Father Makuka
- III. **REVIEW MINUTES** of **September 15, 2025** – All
 - Barbara Meyer provided a markup of the minutes. Deacon Bill Gilles made a motion to accept the September 15, 2025 minutes with Barbara’s changes, Julie Greone seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with changes by voice vote.
- IV. **PARISHIONERS’ COMMENTS** – All
 - Julie Groene said she heard comments that the curbs by the handicap parking hindered walkers and wheelchairs. Deacon Bill said that the curbs will be removed, and a rail will be installed on the ramp going into the south door.
 - Barbara Gaudette said that someone who works at By the River told her that the cards sent to the residents were well received, and felt very personal. Helena Thomas said that her class sent Valentine’s bags.
- V. **PASTOR’S COMMENTS** – Father Makuka
 - A couple donated figures for a crèche. They contacted Deacon Bill, and it was mentioned that they will be invited to Christmas Mass. Jean Jacques is building a crèche to display the figures. An action item is to put a plaque on the crèche acknowledging their donation.
 - A tree lighting ceremony will be held after the Vigil Mass on November 29th. Everyone at Mass will be invited to gather around the tree, and the tree will be sprinkled with holy water. Hot cocoa, and cookies will be available downstairs, and Jim Henderschedt will lead everyone in singing Christmas carols. The outdoor lights will have a timer that turns them on at 4:00.
 - The Knights of Columbus is donating \$10,000 to the Archdiocese Seminary Fund. The Archdiocese is asking each parish to donate \$10,000 to the Seminary Fund each year. Perhaps the Knights could donate half and the parish could donate half. Barbara Meyer asked how will be raise \$10,000 each year? Will it be an active fund raiser (e.g., spaghetti dinner). Julie Groene asked if people were aware of this request. Maybe it should be publicized in the monthly

Archdiocese magazine. Julie suggested that 529 plans could be set up for a seminarian. Pedro Cristovao commented that the Knights may be able to afford 50% of the amount each year. Nothing is finalized, however.

VI. **DEACON'S COMMENTS** – Deacon Bill Gilles

- Deacon Bill said that that his Biblical school had 17 attendees total among the a.m. and p.m. classes.
- He said that we have 6 non-adult altar servers, and are looking for 6 adult altar servers. Julie Groene said that families might want to do it, but probably would only want to do it once a month.
- Janice Reska asked about attendance. Deacon Bill said that there was a total of about 250 for three Masses in October (approximately 83 per Mass). Deacon Bill said that he thought a few years ago it was about 215.

VII. **Action Item Follow-Up** – All

- Follow-up on September 15, 2025 Action Items:
 1. Pedro Cristovao said that motion lights in the stairwell will be installed next week after the switches are delivered. There will be sensors at the top and the bottom of the stairs.
 2. Janice Reska will introduce cantors and recognize children who sing with the cantors.
 3. Nancy Visco got an email from Gil Thompson that that new parish registration form on the website was working.
 4. Deacon Bill will contact Gil about helping on website
 5. Ministry/Committee chairs reviewed content on website to ensure that it was accurate and complete regarding their ministries/committees.
 6. Barbara Meyer will reach out to Nora to post request for adults to help with Faith Formation. Help is needed on Saturdays, but most parents are participating in the parent session happening at the same time.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS** – All

- What's new for Advent and Christmas – Father George Makuka and Barbara Meyer
 - Crèche in front of Church
 - Tree
 - Caroling on Sunday December 14th at 1:00 p.m. at Marlborough Health Care Center.
 - Christmas Pageant on December 12th at 7:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal will be on December 11th. There will be 14 kids and the choir. Will raise donations for Catholic Worker House. Coffee and cocoa will be served afterwards. Need people to help direct kids beforehand.
- Discuss Pope Leo's 2026 Focus –Barbara Meyer
 1. Peace
 2. Solidarity
 3. Human Dignity in a Rapidly Changing World
 - We could have a subtheme (e.g., past themes were being more family friendly, getting people to Mass).
 - This year our annual focus could be Adult Faith Formation, i.e., ministering to parents and helping them where they are.

- **Discuss Our Aligned Theme and Working Focus – Adult Faith Formation with an Additional Focus on Ministering to Parents** - All
 - Will send out notice in January bulletin about theme.
 - Father Makuka will check with the Archdiocese to find out what the theme of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal will be this year.
 - Julie Groene said that Adult Faith Formation is part of lifelong learning, a spiritual journey.
 - Barbara Meyer said that we should be sure to include empty nesters, widows/widowers, those in bereavement.
 - Tim Geary answered questions about AFF at Ministries in Motion. Tim said that people are looking for something definite, and we have to come up with specific plans.
 - Barbara Meyer said that we asked for input about what people want, and we did not receive a lot of feedback . We have the Men's Prayer Group, the Women's Prayer Group, the Knights of Columbus, the Online Rosary, etc.
 - Tim Geary suggested that we could have about three events a year with either a speaker or a service opportunity.
 - Cindy Bryan said that the parents of Faith Formation didn't want the same catechism their kids were getting. They wanted a deeper level of Faith Formation.
 - Barbara Meyer said that we could get a speaker on the Liturgy. We can ask Josh Perry, who did training for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.
 - Barbara Meyer said that we asked if there was interest in a parenting group, and the response was yes.
 - We could invite a speaker and coordinate it with some of the OCIA topics.
- **Fund Raising Ideas** – All
 - Pedro Cristovao suggested "Lunch with a Friend;" i.e., ask everyone to call a friend to attend.
 - Father Makuka said that they had a parish tag sale in Guilford.
 - Barbara Gaudette said that the MES PTO and the Library display a QR code for making donations at their events.
 - Helena Thomas suggested that we could do another concert/coffee house similar to the one we had a few years ago. If we provided beer like we did last time, we would have to again ask permission from the Archdiocese.
 - Barbara Meyer will follow up with Dave Lenihan and Father Makuka to see who will be on committee for fund raiser.

IX. PASTORAL CARE

- **Christian Outreach Updates** - Barbara Meyer from November 2025 Christian Outreach Report:
 - **Weekly Food Drives and Monthly Sandwich Making Collection** – both these events continue with John Noel collecting and delivering the food weekly to the food bank and Doug Meyer collecting sandwiches the last Thursday of the month and delivering to St. Vincent dePaul. There continues to be a morning Mass crew who makes sandwiches together the last Thursday of the month as well and leaves them for Doug to deliver as part of the parish collection. The fixings to make the morning sandwiches are donated by the Knights and coordinated by Jen O'Neill. Sandwich collection takes a break during the months of November and December.
 - **St. Vincent dePaul Sunday Supper** – our 2nd commitment date for 2025 was held on September 21st and was coordinated by Nancy Gianetti and Diane Barganier. This is a big event to coordinate and Nancy continues to recruit others to help serve as leads for the various

dates – we have two dinners per year. One participant who has come to serve at St. Vincent has volunteered to help lead events going forward – many thanks to Matt Smeigel.

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – Donna Sawan coordinated another successful blood drive commemorating National Make-a-Difference Day and in honor of Bill Beyerly (2nd annual). Donna was pleased with the amount of blood collected and mentioned that over the past 3 blood drives at SJF around 97 collective pints were collected. Donna is also very grateful for all those who baked for the event and helped support her in other roles needed to host this event in our hall.
- **All Souls' Mass and Remembrance Reception** – Invitations were sent to those who lost loved ones this past year (or since the last remembrance Mass in 2024), personalized cards were made by SJF artists (both youth and adult) and given out during the reception and the altar was set up with candles (with names), fresh flowers and the option to bring a small framed photo of the deceased. It is always a very powerful Mass and one where folks feel seen and ministered to – this year was no different. Received positive feedback from those invited and those attending. For those who were invited and who did not attend, the personalized card is sent to them with a note from the parish.
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive** – John Noel supplied 100 bags with attached shopping lists. Most bags were given out the first weekend with a little issue at the 10:30 Mass but bags were then brought downstairs and given out at Ministries-in-Motion. The 100 bags include the additional bags requested by Nancy G. Bags are all due back by 11/23. John kindly brings all the filled bags to the food bank.
- **Christmas Giving Program** – the Christmas Giving trees will be up with tags the first weekend of Advent 11/29 and 11/30. The organizations supported this year are: Marlborough Heath Care and Rehabilitation, By-the-River Residential Care Facility, A Sacred Place (Incarcerated at York Correctional), St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Worker and House of Bread. Unwrapped gifts are due back by 12/14 for delivery early that same week.
- **Bereavement Christmas Cards** – we will meet during the day on December 12th in our church hall to write Christmas cards for the bereaved. This is primarily the same individuals who were invited to the All Souls' Mass and reception.
- **Christmas Caroling at Marlborough Healthcare** – the interest is back to host a caroling event and we have reached out to secure a date. Members of the adult choir are interested and we will share with all parishioners once we get the date/time finalized.
- **DRAFT 2026 Plan** – we discussed our plan of outreach opportunities for next year and have shared in a separate attachment. Donna suggested continuing the collection of small personal care items as Jen had in the past – we agreed that would be a great idea and we will see if that is something the FF community would like to manage. If not, we can add a place to collect a few times a year and verify where these items should be sent.
- **Community Garden** – Peg Filloramo from November 2025 Community Garden report.
 - The St. John Fisher Community Garden has completed the 2025 growing season with over 565 lbs. of food grown and donated to the Marlborough food bank. This was our biggest season since the garden was started in 2014. The food bank is always grateful for the fresh produce to help those with food insecurity right here in the community.
 - The garden team added one new member this year and our small but mighty team did a great job weekly for this ministry. We did get a few inquiries over the weekend at the information fair after all the Masses and so we'll see in the spring if our team grows!!
 - We still have some carrots growing in the garden and they will also be donated over the next few weeks to the food bank.

- **Lending Library and Book Club** – Barbara Gaudette from November 2025 Lending Library Committee report
 - We continue to accept and process books in our library. We are open to suggestions to increase the use of our wide variety of books. The set of encyclopedias from Fr. Al was donated to It's So Ranunculus to be repurposed with floral arrangements.
 - In September the SJF Book Club met to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. In December we will discuss *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. We currently have 18 members and new members are always welcome.
- **Comfort and Warmth (Prayer Shawl) Ministry** – Barbara Gaudette from November 2025 Report
 - Since our last Parish Council meeting we have distributed 4 prayer shawls, 10 Pocket Prayer Shawls for the Confirmation class, 1 baptismal blanket and 59 hats and one scarf to the Knights of Columbus Coat Drive.
 - Siobhan Peng demonstrated knitting with a circular loom at our last meeting and has decided to join this ministry. Five parishioners expressed interest in joining us at Ministries in Motion.

X. LITURGICAL

- **Altar Serving Ministry** – No report
- **Ministers of Communion** – Gil Thompson from November 2025 Report
 - We have recruited 4 additional people to add to the roster and there are a couple more people targeted for recruitment. Some of them were recruited at Ministries in Motion. They are in the process of completing Virtus training and background checks. Once the holidays are settled, we'll get them trained and Commissioned. By-the-way, welcome Tim Geary and Lile Couture to the EMHC ministry team; Tim to weekend Communion and Lile to Homebound Communion. Things are a little awkward as we work out proper positioning at Mass, but we're getting there.
- **Liturgical Committee** – Father Makuka and Barbara Meyer
 - This committee began meeting monthly back in July 2025. The committee is led by Father George with the following current members: Deacon Bill, Gil, Janice, Julie G., John N., Paulette, Todd and Barbara.
 - The committee talks through and plans for the various aspects of the liturgical calendar and is currently populating an annual plan document to be used going forward. The current focus is on Advent and Christmas and ALL that goes into those celebrations.
- **Reader and Greeter Ministry** – Julie Groene from November 2025 Report
 - Participants per ministry:
 - Reader- 14 + 2 new additional from Ministries in Motion=16 Total
 - Greeter 14+ 1 from Ministries in Motion=15 Total
 - The fourth quarter ministry schedule is completed through the end of December. The schedule for Christmas will be created following the November Liturgy Committee Meeting where the needs of the holiday masses will be identified.
 - As a result of the Ministries in Motion event held after masses November 8&9, we are welcoming and training one new greeter and two new readers.

- Paulette Adams and I attended a very informative training offered by the Hartford Diocese for readers held at St. James Parish in Manchester on 10/28/25. The takeaways were to remember readers are not just reading, we are proclaiming God's word. Ultimately, we want to move from Readers to Proclaimers of the Word of God to Proclaimers of the Power of the Word of God.

- **Music Ministry** – Director Janice Reska from November 2025 Music Ministry Report
 - We conducted several recruiting efforts in early fall, and are blessed that two new cantors have volunteered to help lead our congregation in song. Susie Guarino has a B.S.Ed. degree in Music from Penn State, and Angelica Lawrence attended the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts with a focus in music. We welcome them both, and are very grateful for their service to our church.
 - Jim Henderchedt has volunteered to assist me in bringing back our Youth Choir. The youngsters will sing at the 8:30 Family Masses each month. To accommodate everyone's busy schedules, we hold only one 45-minute practice the Wednesday before each Family Mass. Over a dozen students have expressed interest in participating, and more youths continue to join our group.
 - The choir has begun rehearsing for Advent and Christmas masses. This year, the Adult Choir will be singing at the 4:00 Christmas Eve mass, and the Youth Choir will sing a few songs before mass begins. It may be challenging to get someone to sing for the 9:00 Christmas Eve mass and the 10:00 Christmas Day mass.
 - Beginning in Advent, the Adult Choir will be singing Agnus Dei in Latin as one of the mass parts. In order to strive for consistency in the mass parts that are sung, we will be singing the Mass of Creation mass setting during Advent.
 - Father George had requested that the Youth Choir sing at one of the masses during Advent. This will depend on everyone's availability to find a practice time since the children are already preparing for a Family Mass on November 23, the Christmas Pageant on December 12, a Christmas Eve mass on December 24, and a Family Mass on December 28.
 - Cindy Bryan has asked the choir to sing at the Christmas Pageant on December 12. The choir has been working on five Christmas carols and two choral pieces for this event. A dress rehearsal will be held on December 11.
 - Jim Henderschedt and I both had a presence at the Ministries in Motion event and received one additional sign-up for the Youth Choir.
 - Carlos Pina has adjusted the placement of the two hanging microphones above the choir area. His team has also installed a new microphone on the altar. Father George has requested that an additional microphone be placed near the seating area of the Sanctuary.

XI. EDUCATION & FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- **Family Faith Formation (Grades K,1,3,4,5,6)** – Cindy Bryan from November 2025 Faith Formation Report
 - Family Faith has 24 children registered. We continue to have on average 16 children attend the Thursday class. Every child with the exception of two have attended at least 1 of the 4 classes we have had. One of them is a kindergartener that is not comfortable in our group at this time so her mother is instructing her at home. Our Saturday sessions had about 10 children with about 8 parents. Deacon Bill was the speaker at our first session in October and Kelly Henderschedt was the speaker for our November session. Our lessons have been utilizing our workbooks, the Bible, videos, and music complementary to our courses. We spoke of God as our Father in October, Creation, and our responsibility to care for creation. This month we are discussing how the Bible can guide us to live the way God wants us to live- stories from the old Testament,

Jesus' teachings in the New Testament, and how Jesus lived. The benefits of good choices vs the consequences of bad choices. But no matter what, God still loves us!

- Last week, we fulfilled our obligation from the Archdiocese to teach the next 2 lessons from Virtus for Empowering God's Children. Sixteen children were present. The parents of the 8 children absent will be instructing their children at home. The 7th and 8th grade classes will have their lesson this Sunday.
- The date of the Children's pageant is set for Friday, Dec. 12 at 7:00pm. We will have a collection box for any monetary donations for the Catholic Worker House at the doors. The choir has been practicing the music and the children had fittings for their costumes today.
- I am looking for a few props. – an elaborate chair that can be a throne (Herod), hay bales, containers for "gold, frankincense and myrrh", a baby Jesus, a small bench for Mary (Angel Gabriel scene) a wicker basket, a spotlight...my brother will be making the manger for me.
- Any suggestions are welcomed.
- I am also in need of a couple adults to watch the children downstairs until it is time for them to appear in the pageant. I will have games, coloring sheets, and puzzles to keep them occupied.
- We will have cookies and cocoa for the families and attendees after the pageant.
- The family Mass in October, with the addition of the children's choir (Thanks to Janice and Jim Hendershedt) was a big success. I hope their choir continues to grow as well as the attendees to the children's mass.

2nd Grade, 9th Grade, and 10th Grade Faith Formation – Helena Thomas from November 2025 report

- 2nd Grade Sacramental Year:
 - We currently have 8 children enrolled in the 2nd grade sacramental year Faith Formation program. We've had five classes so far: 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4 and 11/18.
 - The children are again utilizing the 2nd Grade We Believe "Jesus Shares God's Life" book by Sadlier which begins with Jesus and His Church, the Sacraments and Commandments, more specifics on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist, and further progresses with the Mass, how the Church lives today, and how we honor Blessed Mary and the saints. There will also be seasonal instruction during class for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The parents are happy with the book and they like taking it home so they can do the homework together with their child. Both parent and child are learning together. After each lesson, I also follow-up with a summary email on the lesson covered in class.
 - After each chapter, there are exercises to complete. The children will receive a sticker on their Homework Sheet at the following class for homework completion. Also, they have a Prayer Sheet and each time they say the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Act of Contrition, they color in a smiley face. The children participate during class and show that they are eager to learn about God.
 - At the 11/18 class, the children brought in gifts to fill their Operation Christmas Child box(s). They really enjoyed doing this and coloring a Let's Be Friends worksheet that will go inside the box.
- 9th Grade Confirmation Year:
 - We currently have 13 teens enrolled in the first year of Confirmation prep. We've had five classes so far: 9/27, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2 and 11/16.

- I'm continuing the same program I established last year. The program is designed to start the teens thinking about why they are here (more than just going through the motions to receive Confirmation because their parents told them they have to), refresh their memories of the 10 Commandments, Sacraments, what is sin (difference between venial and mortal sin), more about Blessed Mary and the Rosary, the Beatitudes, Mass components, and then progress to Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit, Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and their meanings, preparing to live their new commitment to Jesus, celebrating the Holy Spirit in our lives, and finally what it means to live what will be celebrated in Confirmation.
- After each class, I hand out information about at least one saint for the kids to take home. I also hand out a Challenge of the Week sheet which will challenge the kids to do something faith related like start a prayer journal at home, pray the Rosary, do an act of kindness, to just name a few. Each week has several new faith challenges for them to choose from.
- We've had one service event on Nov. 2 which was Operation Christmas Child. Between 2nd grade and 9th grade, 57 boxes were filled! All boxes were dropped off Tuesday night at the Manchester drop off site.
- 10th Grade Confirmation Year:
 - The 10th graders celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on October 26 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Afterwards, parents commented on how beautiful the Mass was as well as the Cathedral. For some, it was their first time at our Cathedral.
 - This Confirmation class was especially special because it included one teen who chose not to get confirmed with his 2024 class but decided to get confirmed with the 2025 class.

Youth Ministry – Helena Thomas from November 2025 report

- So far, we've had three Youth Ministry meetings at St. Columba. We've continued combining our STJF YM meetings with Church of the Holy Family in Hebron and their meeting site as in Columbia behind the St. Columba parish rectory. The carpeted meeting room is actually two adjoining rooms with couches, fun lighting, large TV, tables and additional chairs. The first meeting was 9/13 with the theme "No Filters – Come As You Are" (freedom to bring our authentic selves to God without hiding our imperfections), then 10/11 with the theme "Wait... That's Real?!" (Our Catholic faith is full of astonishing, real events revealing God's power and love), and then 11/8 with the theme "OK God, What's Next?" (Discernment is not about predicting one's whole life plan but learning to trust God with the daily step-by step; trust the planner and not the plan).
- At the first meeting, we had one 9th grader come and at the second meeting we had one 10th grader come. We are hopeful that as the year goes on, more STJF teens will be going to these remarkable, fun meetings. On average, there are around 11-15 Church of the Holy Family teens.

Nurturing Seedlings – Barbara Meyer from November 2025 Report

- Barbara Gaudette and Barbara Meyer are currently thinking through the 2026 offering and who will participate as facilitators. In addition, they are planning to work with Deacon Bill to better understand the baptismal process and how best to invite and include new parents in these efforts. Nurturing Seedlings is one of the first "touchpoints", in addition to baptismal preparation, in ministering to parents.

▪ **Adult Faith Formation** – Tim Geary from November 2025 Report

- The Ministry was present at all three Ministries in Motion events after mass on 11/1/25 and 11/2/25. As a relatively new ministry, we are looking for a strategy to help grow, build, nurture and demonstrate adult based faith growth opportunities. Working in collaboration with other ministries is essential for the success of the Faith Formation Ministry. Here are some additional questions to think about as we head into 2026:
 1. Where do we want to go as an Adult Faith Community?
 2. What is the best way to have this ministry work in conjunction with other ministries?
 3. What topics would be of interest to the members of SJF if we are to bring in guest speakers?
 4. What additional areas or suggestions are there going forward?

- **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults/Adult Confirmation** — Jim Castellani from November 2025 Report
 - Two “candidates” involved in the OCIA process; Cori Beaudry and Chuck Burkhardt.
 - 2-hour discussion sessions are being held every Sunday either after the 8:30 mass or before the 10:30 mass.
 - I have made contact with two additional prospective candidates. Neither is ready to begin.
 - Have solicited discussion leaders from parish. 2 have responded favorably and have selected topics.
 - Nov 30, 2025 – Advent Sunday at the 8:30 AM mass, the “candidates” will receive the blessings in the Rite of Welcoming. An informal reception is planned afterwards. Gifts will be presented to both candidates in the name of the STF parish community.
 - KNOW OF ANYONE? If you know anyone interested in following their “Journey of Faith” through the OCIA process, advise Coordinator Jim Castellani at 560-295-9904, jcast3951@aol.com OR have the inquiry contact Jim or the parish office.
 - Adult Confirmation - No active participants

XII. ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Finance Council** – David Lenihan from November 2025 Finance Council report
 - Key financial information for the four months ended 7/1/25 to 10/31/25
 - On the revenue side, we are about \$1,900 to the good compared to budget. This is primarily due to Weekly Offertory and Annual Collection being ahead of budget by about \$1,400 and \$3,900, respectively while Faith Formation fees are below budget by about \$3,000. Please note that the goal for the Annual Collection is \$75,000 and, although we are making progress (currently collected \$33,000), we have a long way to go to reach our goal. We encourage all who have not yet made their contribution to do so.
 - On the expense side, we are over budget by approximately \$7,000 in the church repair and maintenance account due to the timing of needed repairs to all our outside doors and a down payment for a new railing at the handicap entrance. These were offset by lower expenses for salaries (less hours and unfilled sexton position) and the timing of other expenses that are budgeted in coming months (visiting clergy, oil and cathedraticum to name a few).

- SJF recently received a \$50,000 reimbursement from the State of CT under a security infrastructure grant that we were awarded last year. This grant provided for: the installation of surveillance cameras with monitoring equipment, a security system and outside office door reinforcement.
- **Building Committee** – Peter Yorio from November 2025 Report
 - We added 3 new members to the Building Committee - Todd Gianetti, Bill Moreno and Tony Warchut - and Chris Warchut resigned from the committee.
 - This is the work that was completed in the last 3 months:
 - Rusting on all of the exterior door and frames was removed and the doors were primed and repainted. The rusting door frames in the vestibule were also repaired and painted.
 - Construction of a new handrail for the handicap ramp is underway in preparation of replacement of the front walkway and handicap ramp in the spring.
 - The curbs in the handicap parking area will also be removed and patched in the spring.
 - Clogged drains in the 3 floor drains in the hall bathrooms and kitchen were addressed.
 - A new altar microphone was installed.
 - A new larger sediment filter was installed in the church.
 - Tree limbs over hanging the front of the church and overhanging both sides of the parking lot were removed.
 - Kneeler repairs and replacement of defective lights was performed.
 - Adjustment of the weather seal on the outside door near the office.
 - The following projects are planned:
 - Furnace maintenance
 - Replacement of the fire panel
 - Updates to some door weather stripping
 - Update the office thermostat
 - Inventory tables and chairs in hall - order broken or missing parts
 - The current Building Committee consists of the following parishioners - Fr. George, Margaret Wilcox, Todd Gianetti, Jim Castellani, Jean Jacques, Subby Magro, Bill Moreno and Pete Yorio.
- **Communications/Social Media** – no report
- **Web Ministry** – Gil Thompson from November 2025 Web Ministry Report
 - **STJChurch.org** : Recent work on the website includes the ability to have a description on events in the calendar. For example, when you click on an event, like November 23, you will see a pop-up note describing a little more detail about that event. When additional detail is provided, I can add it, if no details are provided, it will just repeat the date and time of the event. Really great support from the vendor, Diocesan Support. I'm learning how to create and use computer generated images on our website. My preference is to use photographs of real people and events, but lacking that, I'll continue to "make up" images that fit the articles you request to be

posted. Please don't forget the information squeezed into the small space available in our bulletins can be greatly expanded on the website.

XIII. PARISH LIFE

- **Social Committee** – Christina Warchut from November 2025 Social Committee Report
 - The first Coffee Hour was held on October 26. We had a good turnout. The next Coffee Hour will be November 23. Nancy Gianetti and I met with the new owner of the Marlborough Bakery and she has agreed to help us by discounting the cost of the donuts. I plan on ordering the donuts, mini donuts, bagels and a pastry ring from her for the November Coffee Hour. Hopefully this will be more cost effective.
 - We provided support for the All-Souls Reception and Ministries in Motion Event.
 - The Spaghetti Dinner will be held Jan 31. We have also reserved dates for the following:
 - Corned Beef Dinner, Chili Bake Off with Build a Taco, and the Parish Picnic. I received a few suggestions for events and will start planning for them in the future.

- **Knights of Columbus** – Jim Castellani from November 2025 report
 - In Memoriam, Sir Knight Rodney Madore – Held November 16, 2025. Additionally, Sir Rodney was included in a memorial mass held by the 4th Degree Knights Assembly for all recently fallen brothers on November 12, 2025 at St. John's in Cromwell.
 - 2025 Coat Drive Nov 8, 2025 – On the green from 9:00am until 6:00PM. The drive was very successful.
 - Christmas Lights with Men's Group – On Saturday, November 15, 2025 – 9:00 AM A crew of 8 volunteers assisted with installation of the church's exterior lights. The task has NOT been completed at the church and the rectory. All will be ready for the lighting on Nov 29th after the 4PM mass. Jim Castellani is coordinating.
 - 2025 Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest – This annual event has started. Posters will be submitted within 4 different "grade levels." There are \$50 1st place awards available for each of the grade level categories. Our winners may to fortunate enough to advance to District, State, National and International level competitions. Entry materials are available in the vestibule.
 - Coming Up:
 - 2026 Knights of Columbus Class of 2026 Scholarship – We expected to begin opening up this scholarship competition shortly. Two \$750 scholarships are available. Frank Daudish is coordinating this process.
 - 2025 Marlborough "Lights-on-the-Green" December 6, 2025 – The Knights will again be offering FREE POPCORN throughout the event in an effort to brighten the beginning of the Christmas season in our community.
 - JOIN THE KNIGHTS – Contact Worthy Grand Knight Carlos Pina or any Knight. Informational materials are available in the vestibule.

- **Men's Prayer Group** – Jim Castellani (co-Chairman with Peter Yorio) from November 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 for you. God Bless.

- 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.”
- Christmas Lights with Knights of Columbus – On Saturday, November 15, 2025 – 9:00 AM a crew of 8 volunteers assisted with installation of the church’s exterior lights. The task has NOT been completed at the church and the rectory. All will be ready for the lighting on Nov 29th after the 4PM mass. Jim Castellani is coordinating.
- Crèche – At the request of Father George an outdoor crèche is being built by Jean Jacques to house the Nativity figurines donated to SJF. Work is in progress, and we hope to complete the installation long before Nov 29th.
- Men’s Retreat – Mark your calendars for our next retreat scheduled for April 10-12, 2026. (FYI, Easter Sunday is April 5th.)
- Ministries-in-Motion (Nov 8-9, 2025) – We talked to three men who expressed interest in joining the group.

- **Women’s Prayer Group** – Barbara Meyer from November 2025 report
 - A group of approximately 18 women meet monthly with two new participants joining as a result of Ministries-in-Motion. We continue to reflect and pray together and read through the 33 Days to Eucharist Glory. We also enjoy time with Jesus in front of the tabernacle at the end of our meetings.

- **Online Rosary** – Gil Thompson from November 2025 report
 - About 8 parishioners have been attending Monday morning online Rosary, rotating readers depending on who volunteers. We have been praying our intentions and those forwarded to us via the prayer line. This is a very satisfying way to start the week. You can join the Online Rosary via a link on our website, all the way at the bottom, click in the red banner under “Links”. That will put you in Zoom and if you haven’t already done so, it will guide you to the steps needed to join us. Don’t worry about bed hair or pajamas, you can turn off the video and you don’t have to speak (actually prefer you go on mute unless you have intentions you want to offer for us all to pray). We had an opportunity to chat up Online Rosary at Ministries in Motion.

- **Summer Singers** – Gil Thompson from November 2025 report
 - The Summer Singers recently offered a concert for the residents of By-The-River Residential Care Home [Building 2], on Jones Hollow Road, here in Marlborough. We sang 12 songs, plus a bonus encore. From Take Your Shoes Off Moses to Margaritaville, Softly and Tenderly, In The Garden and Hallelujah. It’s rewarding to see some grumpy old faces grow to sparkling eyes, big smiles and tapping feet. We practiced a lot over the summer and perfected some harmonies. We are already working on next year. Looked at a Christmas program, but I’m not sure we can pull that off. As usual, come the holiday’s, time suddenly flies by. Remains to be seen if the Summer Singers can gather a few more voices when the sun comes back to warm us up.

XIV. ACTION ITEMS – Nancy Visco from January 2, 2026 email

1. Plaque to put on the manger acknowledging the couple who donated the statues for the manger. Look into making it weatherproof. (Matt)

2. Fundraising ideas to help with the yearly \$10,000/parish for seminarians. Some ideas were: spaghetti dinner, tag sale, bake sale (Confirmation class), Christmas bazaars, pig roast, wine tasting, concert, talent show/coffee house. Someone suggested making a QR code so people could donate this way.
3. Ideas for theme for 2026 (Father George to follow up with the Archdiocese).
4. A committee for fundraising for the seminary fund (Barbara Meyer).

XV. **NEXT MEETING** - Thursday, **January 15, 2025** (7:00-8:30 PM)
Email Committee Reports to the Parish Council email list by **January 8, 2025**

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT** – **8:14 PM**

XVII. **CLOSING PRAYER** – Offered by Father Makuka