



# Pastoral Council

**Mary of the Visitation  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024  
West Campus, Becker**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Members Present
  - a. Father Mike, Bonnie Dezelar, Ron Dietl, Brenda Ewing, Sandi Ferris, Greg Scherber
  - b. [Parish Council 2023-24](#)
3. Addition/Adjustments - Approval of Sept Minutes  
[Parish Council Minutes Nov 2023](#)
4. Parishioner Input
  - a. No Parishioners Present
5. Ministry Team Updates
  - a. Finance
    - i. No meeting this month. Got the reports for Nov and Dec. We are ahead of the budget by about 40,000. Fall collection and fall festival was about 2 times above budgeted. The Christmas collection was good as well. We are one of the only parishes around that have a midnight mass. All masses were well attended. Masses were more balanced this year
  - b. Liturgy
    - i. Discussion about moving the Christmas manger to the front of the altar. Reviewed the funeral book. Need another candle tree. Found one but waiting on a price.
    - ii. Ash Wednesday Planning - Ashes and psalms discussion. Dispose of the old palms. Picked out 3 lent prayer books. Will be using a common entrance song and no prelude.
    - iii. Reconciliation Service - Reconciliation service is coming up. Gift ideas were discussed. Talked about maybe getting a keychain with a heart locket. Penance service is on Palm Sunday.
    - iv. Vigil & Stations Plans - Picked out the readings for the Vigil. Stations of the cross will be videotaped.
  - c. Building & Grounds

- i. Becker Entrance Needs - Discussion about replacing the skylights in the entrance at the Becker campus. Working with Joe and Mike L. We can try to fix it, but it's not guaranteed. We would need new doors. In December, we did some seasonal updates for about 725 dollars. Water is still coming in. There is some draining thing that didn't get done right. Buildings and Grounds have tried to figure it out for years. We want to get it fixed. We are worried about the rot and decay. Want to get it done. We do have money that we can use. We will figure out what we need to do and then bring it to the parishioners.
- d. Faith Formation
  - i. Database System - We need and want to get a new parish database system. We have had several options presented. There is hesitation in relearning a new system. Tentative timeline is to implement the new system during the summer.
  - ii. Faith Formation Director Position - Barb is retiring. The position will be advertised and posted at the end of the week. Question was asked if we could have two directors. We did at one time have two positions. It would need to be part time positions but is a possibility. Father is open to it. It will depend on who applies. We can adjust and be flexible. Focus on the talents that the person has.
  - iii. First Reconciliation - There are a few that are still scheduling with Father.
  - iv. Faith Formation Sessions- Big lake is having a great turn out for Faith Formation Sessions. Dec sessions were well attended. There is only one session in Big Lake and two sessions in Becker.
  - v. Confirmation - Looking at dates to schedule for the confirmation service component. Sharing and caring hands has been done in the past. Nick is not doesn't want to go down there. talk to him. always a great trip. bus driver. Oct 13th is confirmation. Discussion about the grade level that our youth are confirmed. In our parish confirmation is in 11th grade.
  - vi. Faith Formation Closing Celebration - April 17th. Father will not be able to host the celebration. They are discussing getting another priest to help. Could also have a prayer service vs a mass. Father is suggesting having a prayer service and not a mass.
  - vii. Offering Baskets - Some have been purchased just trying to get the felt linings to work.
- e. Knights of Columbus
  - i. They are wanting to get more participation and visibility. They would like to have a mass for them. We need and want to make sure it is appropriate. Discussion about the Knights having their swords and blades a part of this event. We do not feel comfortable with them being out and exposed. We would like the service to be dignified and with purpose.nn We are asking them what they are trying to accomplish. They are wanting to recruit more members and serve the community.
- f. Parish Council
  - i. Member Update - Andy Oeding. Father reached out to Andy Oeding and is waiting for a response. He left a message for him.
- g. Hospitality/Special Events
  - i. Greg is our rep for that committee. He will connect with Mary Kimmes.

6. Big Lake Land Update - No update
7. Building Project Update - Steeple plans are put aside for now. Landscape project is something that could be a service project for the confirmation students. Ron will work on getting estimates for that. We are also checking on the hail damage on the roof in Becker.
8. Youth Involvement Update - Father reached out to Nick and will give an update next month.
9. Future Agenda Items - No parish council meeting in February.
10. Closing Prayer

**NEXT meeting: March 26th, 2024**