

## Agenda - Ave Maria Parish Council November 11, 2025 St. Denis 5:30PM

### Attendees:

Fr. Bala, Parochial Vicar Sr. Maria Inviolata , SMDG/Director of Parish Life

Brad Yocca-Vice Chair Tom Jackson-Secretary

Council Members: Mary Ann Castle, Marg Filipiak , Bill Grey, Rose Lilly, Steve Schneider, John Swicki

NOTE: Items in **Red action** is required

**Meeting called to order at 5:31 by Brad Yocca, vice chair**

**A: Opening Prayer** – led by: Fr. Bala

**B: Approval of proposed agenda** - Motion Bill G, 2nd Rose L, Motion carried

**C: Approve meeting minutes** Motion Steve S, 2nd Bill G, Motion carried

**D. Old Business (recent accomplishments & solutions needed)**

### Updates:

(1) Finance - Mary Ann Castle - No report; next meeting is in December

(2) Christ's Mission Appeal - Sr. Maria Inviolata - Parish has achieved 34% of the diocesan goal; a good beginning.

(3) Safety - Brad Yocca: information was shared regarding the creation of safety teams of ushers for St. Mary's and St. Denis. In January 2026 a new safety protocol for the Saginaw diocese will be available. Greg Jarmolowicz and Brad Yocca, chair persons for the safety teams will review them and host a full team meeting to revise the current plan. Following the revision session a training session will be given to all ushers, nuns and staff including local police and fire departments.

(4) Lights for parking Lot - Bill Grey - New lights have been installed in the St. Denis parking lot; a great improvement has been achieved.

### E. New Business:

(1) Discussion - Implementing the three diocesan pillars.

a) At the 11/11 meeting Parish council members assisted with defining specific suggestions that would measure accomplishments of:

**Pillar 1: Love and support priest and holiness & create a culture for priestly vocations.**

Pillar 1 suggestions included: a) An increased Alter Server Ministry, b) A concerted effort to pray for priests, c) Recognition of a priest's birthday and/or ordination day, d) A bulletin article and picture of our priest, e) On the 1st Sunday of each month having the lector read or lead a prayer for the priest, f) Sharing information that tells of our priests leading people to Christ, eg., Wednesday evening classes. g) Include nuns in some or all of these recognitions.

**ACTION: Pillar 1 is tabled until the next meeting when a designated parishioner will be chosen to lead this effort.**

**Pillar 2: Build disciples to be sent on a mission** (Raise and equip disciples for mission, cultivate and nurture an environment to serve the common good).

**Pillar two goals will be lead by Rose Lilly and Maryann Castle** Many of the existing actions will be continued. These have cultivated the environment to serve the common good

**Pillar 3: Go and retrieve the lost sheep** (find the lost sheep, form the evangelizers, heal those struggling in their lives, lead lost hearts to conversion)

**Pillar three goals will be lead by John Swicki**

**(2)** a) Replacement to fill the vacant Chair position for Ave Maria parish council. *Brad Yocca accepted the role and responsibility of the chair position following a Motion by Rose L., 2nd by John S., Motion carried*

*b) Regarding filling the vacant vice chair, the position Brad had filled. A motion was made to appoint John Kane as the new Vice Chair subject to his desire to fill this position. (Following the meeting Chair, Brad Yocca, talked with John, who accepted the position as vice chair).*

**(3) Tom J:** Rescue Project: Tom J briefed on the events for a parish wide retreat and requested parish council members involvement for this project (especially important is early and often publicity). This event would support the 3 essential principles of the new pillars. Dates suggested for this parish retreat: **April 17,18 & 25, or April 24,25, & May 2.**

Sessions include Rescue project videos featuring Fr. John Riccardo, light meals, live music, and reflective discussion.

Approximate times are Friday evening 6:00-9:00pm & Saturday's 9:30-3:30 (mass follows at 4PM).

Detailed times for each day will be shared at the next parish council meeting.

**ACTION:** Tom will contact the parish council members within a week to ask for their choice of date. Personal and parish calendars need to be checked for the availability of the St. Denis parish center, and to verify there are no conflicts in dates, e.g, first communion.

**(4) Sr. Maria:** New Bylaws for the parish council

The bishop has published new bylaws for the parish council and finance council. The parish council will be affected: A parish council shall have 6-9 members. Ex-officio members are taken out of the 9, examples would be Sr. Maria and Fr. Bala which could reduce the number on members to 7. Sister believes that her position may not take up a counted position, so we would have 8 members. The membership must include a chair, a vice chair, a secretary and finance council person. Downsizing process: It may be that as people end their current terms Ave Maria's parish council will be at the prescribed size.

**ACTION** - Sr. Maria will review this plan with Chair, Brad prior to the next parish council meeting and advise the council at the next meeting

**(5)** Time of subsequent meetings - meetings of the parish council through spring 2026 will begin at 5:30

**F: Upcoming Events: Sister Maria:**

November

11-blessing of veterans after Mass

14-Blessing of Hunters after Mass

22-Healing Service at St M, 10 -noon

22, 23- Blessing of church musicians at Mass

27-Thanksgiving

December

1- Advent Tea, 2 pm St M

6- Christmas Craft Sale, St D, 9-3

6,7- Commissioning of EMHC at Mass

8-Holy Day-Mass 10 am St D, 6 pm St M

12-Our Lady of Guadalupe - 6 pm Mass, Croswell Lions

17-Communal Penance 6 pm St M/ St Nick Sale

24-Christmas Eve - Mass 4 pm St D, 6:30 pm St M

25-Holy Day - Mass 10:30 am St D

January

1- Holy Day - Mass 10 am St M, 6 pm St D

10-Volunteer Lunch noon, St M - TENTATIVE

11- Christmas concert, 3 pm St M

13- Pastoral Council Meeting St M

**H: Roundtable:** Comments raised included: 1) an article highlighting the results of the parish survey. 2) In some cases, the songs at mass are played too slowly. it was made known that some assistance has been offered. 3) Fans for both churches are needed for the warmer months.[ACTION: tabled for consideration in 2026] 4) Handicapped parking at st. Denis [completed]

**I: Closing Prayer: Sr. Maria Inviolata**

Meeting adjourned at 6:48PM PM by chair Brad Yocca

Next Parish Council Meeting: January 13th, time 5:30PM at St. Mary.