

Saint Michael Catholic Church /Mount Airy, Maryland Pastoral Council Reports for the January 8, 2025 meeting (which was cancelled due to snow)

Staff Report to the Pastoral & Finance Councils Updated 01/08/2025

Pastor's Report

Advent and Christmas Season — I am grateful to all who helped to decorate and maintain the flowers and vesture for these seasons. We go back to Ordinary time after weekend Masses. I am grateful to the many who contributed to the beauty of our Christmas liturgies. The hard work of rehearsals paid off! I am grateful for the generosity of parishioners who contributed to our Christmas outreach. You made Christmas happen for 57 families in our community! Finally, I am grateful for the generosity of our parishioners for their monetary gifts to the Christmas collection and the over 2000 people who attended our liturgies.

First Reconciliation for our second graders will commence over a number of days this month. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers, especially for THIS Saturday at their Retreat. First Communion preparation begins Feb 23.

Rescue Project begins on Jan 28. Speakers will be at all Masses to speak of their experience. If Council Members have NOT participated, I strongly encourage you to attend even if you cannot make it to all the sessions! It really is a great spiritual and educational experience!

A number of funerals came in plus 4 more after Christmas—Dick Shinnick's was on Dec 21

Tom Banfield's was yesterday. Christopher Burnett is this Friday.

Next week—Gaynell Natoli's is on Tuesday. Ange's (Deacon Cliff Britton) mother, Yoshie Hoppenjans on Wednesday and Joseph Mantielli is on Thursday. Please pray for the repose of their souls and God's consolation for their family members during this difficult time.

Faith Formation

- It's been quiet in faith formation for children and youth due to our holiday break.
- A catechist meeting will be held January 12th. Programming plans for the rest of the year will be shared.
- Programing for Lent, 1st Communion, May Crowning, and Catholic Bee, etc. are underway.
- Children's service project for January is collecting warm socks to hand out in conjunction with the Lunches for Those in Need.

- About 30 families attended the Home Study Faith Night where they learned about the O'Antiphons and Prayer.
- Reconciliation preparation culminates with a retreat mid-January with the First Reconciliations scheduled throughout the rest of the month!
- This Thursday Women's Evening Bible Study will start a new book, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, by Ascension Press. It will run for next 5 weeks.
- As of this week, about 25 people registered for the Rescue Project. Two people will share testimony at the end of this Saturday and Sunday Masses. We hope for more registrations in the next couple of weeks.
- For Edge/Lifeteen, the optional Christmas party had some snags but we were able to pull it off with a fair turn out.
- The first large group Edge/Lifeteen is on Feb 2nd including parents for the entire session.
- If there are any service project needs that we might consider for Edge/Lifeteen, please let us know.
- VBS is a go for 2025! Currently working on finding nearby parishes to collaborate with and finalizing a date.

Finance and Administration

Key Metrics

Offertory Goal	\$22,000	Mass Attendance	On Line Views
December	\$25,762	892	37
November	\$20,530	947	34
October	\$21,086	815	35
September	\$20,536	789	39
August	\$21,764	768	44
July	\$29,727	782	44
25 YTD Avg	\$23,234	820	39
FY24 Average	\$21,204	865	45
FY23 Average	\$19,963	782	45

Christmas Mass Attendance Trends

Mass	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2020 Stream	2019	2018
4:00 All	850	1033	702	507	143		1360	1815
6:30	448	359	348	235	149	619	425	519
9:30	229	313	227	143			360	182
8:00 AM	209	158	187	91	119	112	152	162
10:30AM	287	216	253	146	119	157	258	276
Total	2023	2079	1717	1122	530	888	2555	2954

Financial Updates:

- Average weekly offertory trended up significantly due to end of year and Christmas donations. Year to date offertory is over goal!
- Christmas Mass attendance matched last year's attendance and given that last year Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday, we feel our attendance was strong. Our Christmas collection has exceeded the \$36K collected in Christmas 2023. Since we have not yet closed December's Books, detailed numbers are unavailable.
- Average weekend Mass attendance trended down in December.
- As of November month end, we had \$713,093 operating cash on hand in the PNC and IPLF accounts, excluding cemetery operations savings. We have **4.1 months** of operating cash on hand based on our projected monthly operating expenses for fiscal year 2025.
 - We completed the rebalancing of the Grace Under Pressure (GUP) funds against the negative balances of the site work and pavilion accounts and Fundraiser savings account in December.

Development:

- The Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities will be held on January 25 and 26th 2025 with the commitment weekend following on February 1st and 2nd. We received the first round of the 2024 parish share of \$8,369 to go into capital savings.
- 3 architect firms have submitted proposals for church renovations and will be under review assessment by the Building Operations and Maintenance committee and the office of Real Estate Management. The following items will likely be prioritized:
 - Updates to the main church and sanctuary.
 - Extraordinary repairs to the fellowship hall facade and roof.
 - Required updates to the obsolete Building Maintenance System (HVAC controllers).

Facilities Management and Security:

- Bids are being sought for the \$12,000 remaining funds from last phase of the security projects to rekey all doors to a master system along with the purchase of more cameras. The funds must be used by March 2026.
 - We are awaiting \$6,300 in full reimbursement for the completed PA system project funded by the Maryland Center for School Safety and expect to receive it in the third quarter.
 - Basic Safety and Security training sessions were held for catechists in September as part of orientation training. The parish staff also conducted a review and Q&A on the current procedures. Additional training and drills must be scheduled soon.
 - We are collecting proposals on replacing the building management system that controls HVAC systems. A new requirements document was developed to provide more specific details to the vendors so that the proposals will be more consistent in scope.
 - The commercial dishwasher replacement project is currently in the fundraising stage with some funding received in December from Giving Tuesday and from the end of year request for donations to the dishwasher as a wish list item. These donations will help offset the \$11-\$16k replacement cost. The dishwasher is used for parish and Knights Events. We will entertain more competitive bids while we wait for funding.
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Knights of Columbus Report - Ralph Trautwein

- 1) The Knights reported that in addition to the Boxes of Joy our council sent, over 30,000 Boxes of Joy were shipped to Children by the Knights of Columbus. That gave 30,000 children a box of Christmas gifts.
- 2) Knights of Columbus next pasta dinner is 1/25/25.
- 3) The Knights were informed that Christopher Burnett, a KofC member in our council passed away on Jan 1. He also was a previous scoutmaster of Troop 428 at St. Michael's and his son Tim was an Eagle Scout in the troop. He was only 56 years old.
- 4) Our council supplied an annual donation to the ARC of Carroll County
- 5) The Knights will conduct Catholic School Student Recognition on 1/25 to 1/26 at all masses, providing a gift of a small cross
- 6) The Jamaica Mission team leaves on Jan 14th to Jan 21. The Knights will be moving the clothing bags stored in the Knights of Columbus Meeting Room to be included in the donations being packed. The team meets on Saturday at 12:30 to pack and weigh the suitcases being taken to Jamaica.

Caring and Sharing Tree Report - Jennifer Rankin

I tried something new this year, creating an email which made it easier for folks to communicate with me, and I with them, I think.

There were a couple of minor blips, but it went well overall. We have a very generous parish which overprovided gift cards and allowed us to give extra to families.

We are working on forming a committee for 2025 in order to increase how and what we give. Please let me know if you know of anyone who is interested!

We gave food and gifts to 57 families - 109 children got at least 2 gifts and a stocking!

The age range for children was baby (5 months??) to 17!

Thank you!