



St. John Fisher - Parish Council

Minutes from Meeting – March 19, 2026

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – PC President, Barbara Meyer **7:00 PM**
- II. **OPENING PRAYER** – Deacon Bill Gilles
- III. **PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS** – All
 - Todd Gianetti thanked Bill Moreno and Jim Henderschedt for installing wall switches for the lights on the east side of St. Thomas More Hall. Previously the lights had to be turned on and off at the breaker panel.
- IV. **REVIEW MINUTES** of **January 15, 2026** – All
 - Barbara Meyer provided a markup of the minutes. Deacon Bill made a motion to accept the January 15, 2026 minutes with Barbara's changes, Jim Castellani seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved (with changes) by voice vote.
- V. **PASTOR'S COMMENTS** – Father Mukuka
 - Father Mukuka said that Jean Jacques received the St. Joseph Medal at a ceremony at the Cathedral.
- VI. **DEACON'S COMMENTS** – Deacon Bill Gilles
 - Deacon Bill said he was looking forward to Easter.
- VII. **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS** – All
 - Barbara Meyer asked Chris Warchut when the last coffee hour was. Chris said that there will be one in April, and none in May, June, July, or August.
 - Jim Castellani thanked Donna Sawan for organizing the blood drive, which collected 41 pints.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – All

- Photo Directory
 - Nancy Gianetti said that we Life Touch no longer does church directories. They used it as an opportunity to sell photos.
 - Nancy said that she had questions about whether we wanted a soft cover, hard cover, and how many we should order. She suggested that we poll parishioners using Survey Monkey and/or a bulletin stuffer. We should ask if they want to:
 - Get their picture taken,
 - Have a posed or informal picture,
 - Submit their own photo,
 - Get prints of their photos, and
 - Purchase a directory.
- Fundraising for Seminarians
 - Todd Gianetti said that the Knights donated \$10,000 this fiscal year (i.e., the 12 months ending June 30, 2026), and will donate \$5,000 this upcoming fiscal year (7/1/26 – 6/30/27).
 - Jim Castellani said that the golf tournament is the Knights' only fundraising event.
 - Barbara Meyer suggested that we ask Father Frederico or a Seminarian or a newly ordained Priest to come to talk about the fundraising for Seminarians when we present the \$10,000 donation. This will serve as a kickoff for the upcoming year's fundraising.
 - Jim Castellani said that there are currently 12 Seminarians, and \$10,000 times approximately 80 parishes in the Archdiocese works out to approximately \$67,000 per Seminarian.
 - Todd Gianetti asked if this will be an ongoing requirement, and Father George said that this will be an annual fundraising request under Archbishop Coyne.
 - Julie Groene said that \$10,000 per year is a little overwhelming, and asked if a 529-like educational account had been considered. She said that 15 years ago in Griswold, a couple who did not have children left a \$1.8 million endowment that generated approximately \$80,000 in scholarships per year from earnings without withdrawing any of the principal.
 - A tag sale was suggested as a fundraising idea, and Barbara Meyer said that we would be competing with the town-wide tag sale, the Congregational Church tag sale, and others.
 - Cindy Bryan said that the Coffee House event with music and food that was held 5-10 years ago generated approximately \$11,000.
 - Other fundraising ideas that could be tied in with the Coffee House event include selling Monk's Bread, T-shirts, and a silent auction.
 - We could solicit things to be auctioned like Red Sox tickets, tickets for the Essex Steam Train, babysitting services, cooking services, etc.
 - Barbara Meyer said that someone or a group of people need to spearhead this. Barbara Gaudette, Chris Warchut, Julie Groene and Cindy Bryan offered to help.
 - Jim Henderschedt and Janice Reska (i.e., "The Key of H") said they would perform at the Coffee House.

- Julie Groene asked how much the second collection usually generates. Barbara Meyer said that it usually brings in an average of \$800, but the amount varies widely. Father George said that if we decide to have a second collection it should not conflict with a second collection that is already scheduled.
- Julie Groene suggested collecting and redeeming the deposit on bottles and cans. Jim Castellani said that one year the Cub Scouts collected 14,000 cans.
- Nancy Gianetti said that some organizations sell “Script” which are books of gift cards, and the organization gets a commission on the sales.
- Julie Groene said that Soup for a Cause could be a fundraiser. We could get restaurants to donate soup, and have the Confirmation Class take the lead.
- Janice Reska said that the Knights at St Patrick’s in East Hampton hold a spaghetti dinner for which they charge \$15. Chris Warchut said that the \$5 we charged for the recent spaghetti dinner was meant to cover the costs.
- Barbara Meyer suggested an ethnic dinner with crepes, pierogis, chili, etc.
- Julie Groene said that we need to communicate that we need to do something to raise the funds every year. Barbara Meyer asked when should we communicate with the Parish, and Father George said that the fundraiser(s) should be held in the Fall, but we could announce the need for a fundraiser, and announce the event(s) in mid-June, around Father’s Day (June 21st).
- Barbara Meyer asked Father George if he could ask Father Frederico if he or a Seminarian could come to the Parish to discuss the new fundraising push. Father George said that he knew two newly ordained Priests who would be good candidates to come talk to us.
- Barbara Meyer suggested that we do a second collection either after Father Frederico or the newly ordained Priests speak, or in the Fall/after Labor Day.

IX. NEW BUSINESS – All

- Barbara Meyer passed out the Master Calendar (see Attachment 1), and asked Ministry/Committee leads to give a list of events they have scheduled through the end of the calendar year to Heather. Even if they have already done so, please do so again mid-April. One exception is Faith Formation, because it makes more sense to finalize the Faith Formation schedule in August.
- Barbara said that the Town of Marlborough asked us if we would like to participate in the Semiquincentennial (i.e., 250th) events. They are doing a parade on May 30th, and a 4th of July event at Blish Park. The 250th celebrations will also be incorporated into Marlborough Day and the Fife and Drum Muster on September 19th. Barbara asked the council what we should do. Possible events include a service event supporting the town such as the Food Bank or doing something for veterans, or an event at the Church including a Ministries in Motion-like event with music, food, a tour of the Community Garden, a dedication for the Pollinators’ Garden, information displays about Church history, and/or Chalk the Walk.
- Father George asked if the St John Fisher Parish had any special Easter traditions. Barbara Meyer said that we used to do Blessing of the Food on Easter.
- Todd Gianetti said palm crosses will be ordered this weekend.

X. PASTORAL CARE

- **Christian Outreach Updates** - Barbara Meyer from March 2026 Christian Outreach Report:
 - **Drive-Thru Café** – the first of our two commitment dates was in February where 7 parishioners served and distributed 50 meals of Sheperd’s Pie/veggies/cornbread/cookies to patrons of the Marlborough Food Bank. Some of the same servers, along with other parishioners, provided the

hot cooked meals and cookies. This is truly a very convenient and local opportunity available to serve our neighbors in Christ. Our final opportunity this year is Sunday May 24th - all meals are delivered to and distributed from the Congregational church where the Drive-Thru Café is beautifully coordinated.

- **ARC Blood Drive** – under the leadership of Donna Sawan, our parish hosted another very successful blood drive on March 7th which produced a record amount of blood collected – 41 pints which was above the stated goal from the American Red Cross. These blood drives continue to be very effective and a huge thanks goes to Donna who brought forward this opportunity and who has managed the four drives we have had to date. Our next and final drive for this year will be on Saturday, October 24th to align with National Make a Difference Day.
- **Community Giving Garden** – under the leadership of Peg Filloramo, the Community Garden will start up again for this season. Peg sent her updates separately and will host an informational session this month for volunteers.
- **Journey Home “Easter Baskets”** – this is the second year we have offered this to parishioners during Lent and it continues to be a meaningful and successful opportunity. You will see (to the right of the sanctuary) the “baskets” that have already come in filled with household/laundry supplies for those transitioning to sustainable housing. This will continue through Lent.
- **Weekly Food Collection (for Marlborough Food Bank) and Monthly Sandwiches Delivery (for St. Vincent dePaul)** – both these efforts continue under the management of John Noel and Doug Meyer, respectively.
- **Next Up:** Our first commitment date to provide and serve the Sunday meal at St. Vincent dePaul is April 19th. This effort is managed by Nancy Gianetti with support from Matt Smeigle.
- **Service and Outreach Opportunities 2026** – Barbara distributed a list of recurring and monthly service and outreach opportunities (see **Attachment 1**).
- **Community Garden** – Peg Filloramo from March 2026 Community Garden Report
 - The St. John Fisher Community Garden will be starting its 11th growing season soon. Our dedicated volunteer team is looking forward to warmer weather and meeting at the garden to start the new season.
 - I will be hosting an information night on Wednesday, March 25th to let all interested parishioners know more about this opportunity to help those in need right here in our community. All are welcome to volunteer at the garden.....no gardening experience is necessary.
 - The garden is planning to expand its growing space by turning over some of the soil along the far edge of the fence that we have not planted in before. We also have another kiddie pool that was donated at the end of last season which will give us more growing space. We hope that some of the confirmation students will help us get the garden prepared on their last evening of the season for them, April 26th.
 - Our Knights of Columbus team has given the garden a very generous donation which will help us greatly. A grateful thank you to the Knights.
 - The garden team looks forward to the new season and hopes that some more parishioners will choose to join us on Monday evenings at five.
- **Lending Library and Book Club** – Barbara Gaudette from March 2026 Lending Library Committee Report
 - We continue to accept and process books in our library. We placed flyers in sign holders at the entrances to the church to encourage parishioners to borrow and read books from our Lending Library. We discussed *An Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger at our March meeting. Our next selection is *Keeping Faith* by Jodi Picoult for Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

- A parishioner/author offered her book, *Amazing Rays* as a possible book club selection. We decided against this because it is only available on amazon and is geared to young adults. A copy will be placed in our Lending Library and the faith formation leaders will be alerted in case they want to recommend it to their students.
- **Comfort and Warmth (Prayer Shawl) Ministry** – Barbara Gaudette from March 2026 Report
 - We distributed one prayer shawl and one baptism blanket. Jan Passacantando knit pocket prayer shawls for the First Holy Communion class.

XI. LITURGICAL

- **Altar Serving Ministry** – No report
- **Ministers of Communion** – Gil Thompson from March 2026 Report
 - Training session for Homebound Communion is basically completed. All the primary EMHC's on the team completed training as of 3/15/26.
 - The following EMHC's are currently scheduled for visits each Friday;
 - Week 1 - Tom Reiser,
 - Week 2 - Sue Hurley,
 - Week 3 - Pete Yorio,
 - Week 4 - Lile Couture, and
 - Week 5 - Barbara Meyer.
 - In addition, whenever possible, a 2nd trained person will join the lead EMHC doing rounds.
 - We normally bring communion to 4-5 homebound parishioners each Friday morning along with several residents at both locations of By the River Residential Care Home and the Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center.
 - Please let the church office know if you are aware of other parishioners who are unable to attend mass. Homebound Communion must be approved by Father George.
 - MASS EMHC's; Two additional parishioners have been added to the Roster; Bill & Stephanie Schoen. Unfortunately, we lost one candidate because she is moving away from our parish.
 - Parishioners who are interested in serving in this ministry, should speak with Father George or Deacon Bill or even ask any of the currently serving EMHC ministry members (who can answer questions and then direct them to our clergy).
- **Liturgical Committee** – Barbara Meyer from March 2026 Liturgical Committee Report
 - This group is busy preparing for the Easter celebration and ALL that leads up to it. You will have noted the decorations of rose for this past weekend as we "rejoice" in what is to come and this coming weekend you will note the veiling of our statues and crucifixes as we begin the two-week period of Passiontide. Leaders such as Janice, Julie and Paulette have submitted their updates separately showing all the work that goes into preparing the glorious celebrations/offerings of music and the scheduling of all the participants during Holy Week and the Easter Celebrations.
 - Soup Suppers and Stations of the Cross – so far another very successful year with highlighted ministries supplying the soups and leading Stations of the Cross following the Soup Supper.

- **Reader and Greeter Ministry** – Julie Groene from March 2026 Report
 - Reader Ministry = 16 Total
 - Greeter Ministry = 15 Total
 - The schedule for Holy Week has been completed and distributed to ministry members. Requests have gone out for the second quarter schedule for readers, greeters and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMOHC). Sincere thanks to all the ministry volunteers who are helping for the upcoming Holy Week and Easter Holiday.
- **Music Ministry** – Director Janice Reska from March 2026 Music Ministry Report
 - The adult choir has been rehearsing for Holy week services at our weekly Wednesday evening choir practices. They will be singing on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. It is a challenge to prepare for these special masses in addition to the weekly Sunday masses during our Wednesday rehearsals, but our choir has been working diligently, and their dedication is deeply appreciated. We are blessed to have these volunteers who are willing to give their time and their musical gifts to our community throughout the year.
 - Our Youth Choir, directed by Jim Henderschedt, continues to sing at the Family Masses each month. Father George has asked the youngsters to sing at one of the Easter Sunday masses. To date, seven children have volunteered to sing at the Easter Sunday mass.
 - Father George has asked the children who will be making their First Communion to sing at the Holy Thursday mass. I am working with Helena to select a song and to get the children prepared for this mass.

XII. EDUCATION & FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Family Faith Formation (Grades K,1,3,4,5,6) – Cindy Bryan from March 2026 Faith Formation Report

- For the month of March, we are in full swing practicing acts of prayer, fasting, and alms giving during Lent. During our Saturday session, Jen O'Neill spoke to our parents about the importance of family service. How even small acts of kindness as a family can encourage growth and stability of their faith and that of their children. Downstairs, the children made flowers of kindness. Each stem had words of encouragement either from a Bible verse or straight from the heart. The vase of 5 flowers included a handwritten note from each child. They were passed out at By the River. Upstairs, the parents made bags of candy for the children at the Catholic Worker House.
- During our February children's session, they wrote a 311 paper. They considered 3 worldly things they wanted to give up for part or all of Lent, 1 thing they could do to bring them closer to God, and to work on 1 sin they were "attached" to. As you can guess, most put treat their parents or siblings better for that one. They were to keep the papers handy to remind them of their commitment.
- This past Thursday, the older children went upstairs to walk the 14 stations. They were very attentive during each reading and truly thought about each reading from the Stations booklet. After we went through each one, they walked around and looked at each picture until they had decided which one held the most meaning to them. Then we went downstairs where they drew the station and wrote an explanation of why they chose that particular one.
- This week, we went through the events of Holy Week from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem through to his Resurrection. We greeted them as they came in, cheering them on, watched some clips from "*The Chosen*," as well as washed their feet and shared bread and grape juice, read from the Bible, reviewed the stations and ended with John 20:1-23.

- Tomorrow, March 20, the 7th and 8th grade are hosting Soup and Stations and on Friday, March 27, the Family Faith Formation will host.
- The Easter Egg Hunt is this Sunday from 1-3pm with crafts, an egg hunt, and refreshments.
- The final 2 Family Masses are March 22 and April 26
- The final class will be on April 9 for Chalk the Walk weather permitting.

2nd Grade, and 9th Grade Faith Formation – Helena Thomas from March 2026 report

- 2nd Grade Sacramental Year:
 - The 2nd Grade Faith Formation class received their 1st Reconciliation on January 17 beginning at 11:00am. Father George heard 7 children's confessions on this day and 1 child's confession on 2/7. Due to the bad weather in February, we cancelled one class.
 - The 2nd Grade class is well on their way learning about Jesus in the Holy Eucharist with a strong emphasis on this truly being the Real Presence of Jesus – His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, when they receive the consecrated Host in Holy Communion, and the importance of receiving this sacrament regularly. The children also learned about the two main components of the Mass – Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist and the importance of actively participating and consciously listening during the Mass (as best they can) because God will communicate to them what they need to know at this stage in life. The children understand that we belong to a parish family and that we are all called by God to love and serve Him by imitating Jesus in our actions. Recently, we talked about Lent and the importance of preparing their hearts for Jesus' Resurrection by doing good deeds and showing love to their family and classmates. The children created a Lent paper cube and on each of the six sides they would write something they could do during Lent that revolved around the 3 pillars – pray, fast, and almsgiving. Some ideas were pray for family, not play video games, and help mom in the kitchen instead of doing something they'd rather be doing. Each day they could roll the cube and see what comes up that they should focus on.
 - We have three more classes and a retreat on Saturday, April 18 for the children when they will make a family name banner for their pew, decorate a personalized felt fish for the church banner, practice identifying the sacred vessels and other liturgical objects as we tour the church, fill out the "I Love Jesus Because..."card for the gold cardboard chalice which will be displayed in the back of the church, a little coloring of Holy Eucharist sheets, practice receiving Holy Communion with unconsecrated hosts, practice singing "My Little Light of Mine," and finally enjoy some dessert to celebrate this momentous occasion of receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time! An actual rehearsal for the big day is planned for Friday, May 1, after school. The date for their 1st Holy Communion is May 2 at 11:00am. You are all cordially invited to join us! Also, May 3 is the May Crowning Mass at 10:30 and the 1st Holy Communion class will crown the statue of Blessed Mary.
- 9th Grade Confirmation Year:
 - Enrollment has decreased to 12 from the original 14 (one is changing parishes due to their parents' decision, and the other has decided to attend the Church of the Holy Family for personal reasons). Class attendance and participation continue to also go well with this group; classes have most enrollees in attendance (1 or 2 missing due to sickness).
 - This group completed another community service event on January 11 to benefit the Catholic Worker House and House of Bread both located in Hartford. The families brought in a multitude of breakfast items such as granola bars, fruit (oranges, apples), prepackaged muffins, juice boxes, and other food items. We also reached out to the

parishioners for any donations. The teens assembled almost 175 brown lunch bags of breakfast items!

- Our next Service Event will be held following class instruction on February 8. The recipient will be By the River. The teens will again make Valentine's Day cards and assemble care packages of goodies to eat (according to their diet restrictions), fun small activities and toiletries. I'd like to schedule a day later in February when the teens will meet at By the River and spend 2-3 hours conversing and playing games with the elderly residents. We tried this the last two years but the first year we cancelled due to teens and myself being sick and last year I attended with only one other parent to distribute the gift bags to the residents because the teens were unavailable due to their other planned activities. Hopefully this year it will work out better!

Youth Ministry – Helena Thomas from March 2026 report

- We continue having monthly meetings at the St. Columba meeting site. Our February 7 meeting theme was Theology of the Body which was a conversation with the teens about authentic dating for Catholic teens and centering your life on God which is very different from how society and social media define teen dating and what is expected. We also covered how to avoid dating traps and establishing the right wholesome role models. We talked about all vocations including being single and the call to chastity. The teens would submit questions anonymously via QR code on the TV screen.
- On March 14, our YM meeting was a “deconstructed” Mass for the YM teens and their families at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron celebrated by Fr. Mike. This means Fr. Mike dialogued with the congregation throughout the Mass explaining the meaning behind its structure, prayers and gestures.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, from 6:30 to 8:30.

Adult Faith Formation – Tim Geary from March 2026 Report

- A small group met on February 19, 2026, and discussed the Prologue and first chapter of Matthew Kelly's book The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality, which was distributed at Christmas. Father George attended. The meeting lasted for approximately an hour and a half.
- After opening with prayer, the group discussed several points from the Prologue, including:
 - If your spiritual life were a house, what would it be like?
- In Chapter One, which focuses on Confession, there was a good discussion around the following questions:
 - Think about the examples of Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods constantly working to eradicate their weaknesses and become better athletes. When was the last time you identified a weakness in any area of your life and then systematically set about eradicating it?
 - In the chapter on Confession, Matthew Kelly discusses the importance of coaches in our lives. Who is your spiritual coach? What is something he or she has taught you?
 - What has your experience with Confession been like up until now? How are you hoping to strengthen your relationship with this sacrament?
 - Do you have a routine around going to Confession? What do you think about the idea of going to Confession at a specific time each month?
 - Walking with God demands that we bring order into our lives and put first things first. How can you be more attentive to what God is calling you to be?

- What is one practical piece of advice that you can take from this week's session on the first pillar of Catholic spirituality: Confession?
- Before closing with prayer, the group decided to meet every two months instead of monthly. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. At that time, we will discuss Chapters 2 and 3 of Matthew Kelly's book. Chapter 2 covers Daily Prayer, and Chapter 3 focuses on The Mass.
- **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults/Adult Confirmation** — Jim Castellani from March 2026 Report
 - Currently there are two "candidates" involved in the OCIA process; Cori Beaudry and Chuck Burkhardt.
 - The Third Phase of the "*Journey of Faith*" process (*Evangelization & Enlightenment*) concludes March 15, 2026.
 - Many "THANKS!" to the volunteer discussion leaders from our parish.
 - On Sunday February 22, 2026, we celebrated the *Rite of Sending* at SJF mass. In the afternoon, the candidates were presented to and blessed by Archbishop Coyne at the Cathedral of St. Joseph during the *Rite of Election* and *Call to Continuing Conversion*. There were 651 registered catechumens and candidates in attendance, a remarkable sign of growing faith. Gifts were presented to the candidates from the St. John Fisher Faith Community.
 - There is 1 new catechumen entering the OCIA process, Weston Croye, who seeks entry into the Church who will begin studies in the Fall of 2026. Weston lives in Marlborough and has begun attending mass at St. John Fisher. Please seek him out and welcome him whenever you can.
 - **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

XIII. ADMINISTRATIVE

Finance Council – David Lenihan from March 2026 Finance Council report

- Key updates for the fiscal year to date (7/1/25 to 02/28/26)
 - Revenues-although we fell short of our goal (\$75,000) for the Annual Collection by about \$20,000, our total revenues slightly exceeded budget by about \$1,700. This is primarily due to total offertory (including Christmas) and other donations exceeding budget by \$15,100 and by \$5,700 respectively.
 - On the expense side, we are over budget by about \$6,500 in the church repair and maintenance account primarily due to the timing of needed repairs to all our outside doors and a down payment for a new railing at the handicap entrance. We also had an unbudgeted \$10,000 payment to the AOH to support new seminarians and an unexpected and unbudgeted increase in clergy medical Insurance account effective January 1, 2026. These were partially offset by lower expenses for salaries and payroll taxes (less hours and unfilled sexton position for part of the year).

Building Committee – No report

Communications/Social Media – no report

- **Web Ministry** – Gil Thompson from March 2026 Report

- Within the last 28 days, we had 1,650 visitors to our website. Our Homepage, the Calendar and Mass Times are the most visited pages.
- Highlight for your exploration is the Ministries section; Click on the Red Ministries button just below the Welcome banner. Scroll left or right by clicking the red left or right arrows, then click on a ministry you are interested in. If it is a ministry, you are already involved in, click on it and read the description. Need a change? Let me know.

XIV. PARISH LIFE

- **Social Committee** – Christina Warchut from March 2026 Social Committee Report
 - Coffee Hour is continuing on the 4th Sunday of the month. We are averaging the same number of attendees. Usually about 60 people between the two masses.
 - The Spaghetti Dinner went very well.
 - We sold 96 tickets and received \$183.00 in donations.
 - We were able to cover our expenses, which totaled \$629.24.
 - The Chili Cookoff and Build a Taco turned out to be quite successful.
 - We had 9 entries for the cookoff. About 40 attended.
 - Everyone seemed to enjoy being able to sample the different chilies.
 - The first-place winner was Chip Carpenter, second place was Peggy Sue Griffing and third place was Cathy Castellani.
 - We received \$190.00 for registration fees and donations. Our expenses totaled \$108.47 so we were able to make a little profit.
 - The parish picnic will be June 14. There will be sign-up sheets at the church entrances for help and potluck sides and desserts.
- **Knights of Columbus** – Jim Castellani from March 2026 report
 - 2025 Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest – The contest has concluded. Winners have been named and will appear in the bulletin.
 - 2026 Knights of Columbus Class of 2026 Scholarship – Scholarship process went active Dec 1, 2025. See the St. John Fisher website for details. Two \$750 scholarships are available. Application DEADLINE is March 31, 2026. Brother Knight Frank Daudish is coordinating this process.
 - 5 new members were welcomed in the Knights this past year.
 - Upcoming: 2026 KofC 13th Annual Golf Fundraiser – **Thursday, Sept 17, 2026** at Blackledge CC.
 - Mark your calendars. PLEASE consider playing, sponsoring or donating to this once-a-year fundraiser which helps the Knights address the needs many individuals, families, and other charitable services in our community, as well as some of the needs of our parish and its ministries.
 - JOIN THE KNIGHTS – Contact Worthy Grand Knight Carlos Pina or any Knight. Informational materials are available in the vestibule.
 - *Vivat Jesus!*

- **Men's Prayer Group** – Jim Castellani (co-Chairman with Peter Yorio) from January 2026 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 with any questions. Come to any session and see if the experience is for you. God Bless. Next sessions: 03/21/26 7:00am, 04/02/26 7pm, 04/18/26 7am, 05/07/26 7pm.
 - 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 – Mark your calendars for our next retreat scheduled for **April 10-12, 2026**. (FYI, Easter Sunday is April 5th.)
 - New Members – One new member has joined our group, the result of the “Ministries-in-Motion.”
- **Women's Prayer Group** – Barbara Meyer from March 2026 report
 - We continue to meet the last Tuesday of the month (although a week earlier this month due to Holy Week). We continue to work through *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory* and we enjoy the spiritual growth and companionship enjoyed throughout this group of women.
- **Online Rosary** – Gil Thompson from March 2026 report
 - The Online Rosary has continued without skipping any Mondays. We have a couple of participants from other parishes since our article was published. It remains a great way to start the week and a good way to remember prayerful intentions. The link to join us is at the bottom of the website homepage, red footer, Online Rosary, just above the Parish Bulletin link. Having a bad hair day and in your pajamas? No problem, just turn off your video feed, click Mute, and pray with us.
- **Welcome Committee** – Midge Lenihan from March 2026 report
 - The Welcome Committee continues to reach out to our new parishioners. We contacted 16 new members, inviting them to join us at the Spaghetti Supper and Chili Cookoff. The personal contact was well received.

XV. ACTION ITEMS – Nancy Visco from April 15, 2026 email

1. Should there be an online or emailed survey regarding family photos and purchasing a directory, or a physical survey put in the bulletin or at the doors/exits of the church? (Nancy G.)
2. Fundraising (\$5,000 for seminarians).
 - Have Father Federico (or a newly ordained Priest) to explain this to the Parish (possibly Father's Day weekend?) Father George
 - Legacy Gift
 - Coffee House (Fall- will need a committee/chair). Ask for donations from parishioners. Key of H (outdoor picnic night?). Julie, Chris, Barbara, and Cindy have volunteered to help so far.
 - Bottles/cans collections
 - Church food bazaar/Soup Supper/Soup for a Cause/Spaghetti Dinner (charge \$15 per person).
 - Have a 2nd collection when there are no conflicts with other collections. After Father's Day, or after Labor Day.

3. Re-submit dates of standing meetings to Heather for Master calendar (All).
Please get to Heather by mid-April

4. 250th Celebration. What do we want to do as a church? What is the message?

- Service event
- Supporting our neighbors/Food Bank
- Tour of community garden- a plant to go?
- Educational Re: gardening, invasive plants.
- Music
- Mass at the lake with all churches in town
- Ministries in motion (outdoors) Activities at every table, selling something.
- Origins of Catholic Church
- Chalk the Walk-Marlborough Mosaic on driveway- make scene with family. Space to create own scenes.
- History of SJF

5. Holy Thursday- need additional people to wash feet.

6. Monday 3/30- need volunteers to help wash windows at the church.

XVI. **NEXT MEETING** - Thursday, **May 21, 2026** (7:00-8:30 PM)

Email Committee Reports to the Parish Council email list by **May 14, 2026**

XVII. **ADJOURNMENT – 8:30 PM**

XVIII. **CLOSING PRAYER** – Offered by Father Mukuka

Attachment 1

St. John Fisher Parish - Service and Outreach Opportunities 2026 Christian Outreach Committee & Community Giving Garden

SJF's Christian Outreach Committee (COC) continues to secure and offer service and outreach opportunities for all parishioners throughout the year. We are always looking for new members to join us as we research and plan various events to involve parishioners as they act on what Jesus asks of us – **"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."** John 13:14-15

COC initiatives focus on food, health, social and financial insecurity and on providing parishioner & neighbor support – we offer recurrent monthly opportunities, scheduled outreach initiatives and support to various organizations as needs arise. For 2026, please mark your calendars with what interests you and stay tuned for more details as the various dates approach. We have also included the Confirmation service projects below as contributions/involvement by parishioners are requested.

Recurrent Weekly or Monthly Outreach	Service and Outreach Opportunity
Weekly at each Mass	Weekly Food Drive supporting patrons of the Marlborough Food Bank
Last Thursday of each month	Sandwich Making and Collection serving patrons of St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown Making: After 8:30 am Mass and Collection: 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm in the front of church
Months of Spring thru Fall	Community Giving Garden serving patrons at the Marlborough Food Bank with fresh produce on a weekly basis

Monthly Outreach 2026	Service and Outreach Opportunity
January	Confirmation Service Project – Snack items for individual snack bags (Catholic Worker and House of Bread)
Lent Begins February 18 February 22	Journey Home "Easter Baskets" – Laundry baskets or cleaning buckets filled with household cleaning/laundry supplies or kitchen tools and supplies Drive-Thru Café serving patrons of the Marlborough Food Bank
Lent March 7 March 8	Journey Home "Easter Baskets" – Laundry baskets or cleaning buckets filled with household cleaning/laundry supplies or kitchen tools and supplies American Red Cross Blood Drive hosting a community blood drive in our hall Confirmation Service Project – Care Bags for ImmaCare in Hartford
Easter April 5 April 19	St. Vincent de Paul Sunday Supper serving patrons in Middletown
May May 24	Baby Shower – supporting young moms and their babies through the organization Caring Families (Willimantic) & Sacred Sweeties (incarcerated pregnant and new moms) at York Correctional Drive-Thru Café serving patrons of the Marlborough Food Bank
June	New or Gently Used Furniture and Goods Collection - Journey Home
July	Back-to-School Supplies Drive – supporting Marlborough Elementary (MES) families
September 13	St. Vincent DePaul Sunday Supper serving patrons in Middletown
October 24	National "Make a Difference Day" American Red Cross Blood Drive hosting a community blood drive in our hall

Attachment 1

Monthly Outreach 2026	Service and Outreach Opportunity
November	All Souls' Mass & Reception supporting those who lost loved ones during the year Thanksgiving Food Drive supporting patrons on Marlborough Food Bank
December	Christmas Cards to the Bereaved who lost loved ones during the year Christmas Giving Program supporting organizations with specific needs from their patrons and residents