

St Joseph Altar Society [PCCW]

November 3, 2025

The meeting of the St. Joseph Altar Society/ PCCW was called to order on Monday, November 3, 2025, by President Jo Langley. Betty Benson led the group in prayers for Veterans and Military Service members/families.

ROLL CALL

Circle 1 – St. Martha: Mary Ellen

Circle 2 – St. Zita: Laura

Circle 3 – St. Veronica: Betty Benson, Lois, Jo

Circle 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

Circle 6 – St. Theresa: Cyndi, Patty

Circle 8 – St. Philomena:

Priest - Father Kosch.

St. Ann (retired circle).

Guest –

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes handed out to those at the meeting. Electronic provided to Sara; posted in Flock notes. Approved by Laura, second by Cyndi.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

FATHER KOSCH

First Communion will be held at St James Catholic Church in Cortland on Sunday, April 19, 2026. Mass will be 1:00 pm with a short reception to follow.

Confirmation will be held at St. James, Cortland, on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

LDCCW DEANERY REPORT

Jo reported on Fairbury Deanery meeting in October at Odell. A staff member from Willow Center gave an informative talk. The LDCCW calendar (September 2025 – August 2026) was distributed along with the LDCCW 2025 Remittance form (due January 1, 2026). St. Joseph will be responsible for St. Monica prayer during July 2026.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

All parishioners were invited to an open meeting on September 23, 2025. The topic was ‘Church Renovation Information’. Father Kosch explained the plans and showed samples of tiles that will be installed with the renovation. Approximately 40 people attended.

Father offered an update on funds. He is collaborating with contractors to determine the extent/cost of renovation, such as painting and details. A company is preparing a draft for consideration and review. Father noted that he will be monitoring the budget carefully. If money is available after the core renovation is covered, we may be able apply some toward the purchase of a new St. Joseph statue.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Cyndi Novotney provided details for the LDCCW 2025-2026 Remittance Form that will be due on January 1, 2026. Blank copies were shared for members to follow the explanation. Members discussed the amounts applied last year and approved the following expenditures.

- LDCCW Contribution \$270
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Burse \$150
- Bishop’s Project – Update Chancery Library \$50
- Presidents Project – Support 9 pregnancy centers \$0.
 - St Joseph’s supports Willow Center directly.
- Funds for Nuns – Education of new entrants \$150
- Parent Educator Baptism books \$25
- Apostles for Life – Support pregnancy centers \$0
 - St. Joseph’s supports Willow Center directly.
- Pink Sisters \$0
 - St. Joseph’s has special collection for Pink Sisters.
- National Council of Catholic Women membership. \$100
- Missionary Childhood Association/Society for Propagation of the Faith \$50
- Catholic Relief Services \$300
 - St. Joseph’s requests application to Madonna Plan.

The treasury balance is \$14,778.31.

- Balance forward from prior meeting \$ 14,248.31
- Total Deposits \$ 530.00
 - Member dues \$390 and Bakeless bake sale \$140.
- Total Debits \$ 0.0

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**Current balance reflects \$6247.65 in donations/memorial gift given to Altar Society for a new St. Joseph statue at front corner of the church.

COMMISSIONS REPORT

Spiritual –

No update.

Legislature –

No update.

Service –

Laura attempted to gather information on “Her Plan”. The meeting was cancelled without notice. She was unable to obtain any other information on the topic.

The Gala will be held at the Beatrice Country Club. Gala Committee is gathering input from organizations relating to support and donations. Recommended options for PCCW would be to sponsor a table for \$750 or to reserve a table for \$600. A sponsored table would include drink tickets. The group decided to reserve a table for \$600. A volunteer is needed to invite parishioners to sit at this table. Laura also reported that ‘Dessert Dash’ activity will be continued. Women from the parish will be invited to donate desserts. Watch the bulletins for additional information in coming months.

OLD BUSINESS

LDCCS Pro-Life Diaper Drive

St. Joseph’s collected 1,572 (church) and 3,755 (school) for a total of 5,327 for the LDCCW Diaper Drive. Students will help to load the diapers for Mrs. Wessel in the coming week.

Recognition of PCCW Members

Father Kosch gave update on members deceased since the last meeting. We will request masses for 3 women and send \$30.

Theology on Tap

Laura will gather more information to ask Sisters in Nebraska City to share information about their order and mission as topic for Theology on Tap. We are proposing a date later in 2026, depending on availability of Sisters.

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Sunday Social – Donuts after Mass

Jo reported that Davis family provided donuts/juice/coffee after Mass in June. The Grabow family assisted in serving and cleaning up. Jo was contacted about support from PCCW to assist in covering costs for this church family event. Since the next PCCW meeting was several weeks away, Jo approved reimbursement of \$67.04 to offset the cost.

Support for Shut-ins

Jo asked for feedback on the request from shut-ins to have someone pray the Rosary with them. Betty Benson was listed as the contact. Betty recommended that anyone contact the Activity Director at the care facility if there is an interest in doing this. Most facilities are very receptive to this and will assist in getting residents to the chapel to participate. They may ask for a 'set schedule' to help with planning and resources. She noted that someone is already doing this at Homestead House.

NOTE: Names/addresses for shut-ins can be obtained from Circle contacts or Sara Stedman at Parish Office.

PCCW Information Bulletin

Circle 6 is working on the creation of a bookmark. [Arbor Ink could be a resource for printing as they have done work for other projects.]

A lively discussion followed as the group debated how to share PCCW information with other women in the parish. There was recognition that participation in PCCW is perceived differently by different women. We need to explore new ways to extend personal invitations to reach out to women that will feel more personal and welcoming. Flock Note could be a tool for sharing basic information, but should not take the place of making a connection.

It was noted that many of the same ladies are covering the service needs of the parish. Jo's research indicated that St. Joseph's Catholic Church has approximately 270 families. PCCW is intended to be available to all women, not just those who are currently associated with a circle. Father acknowledged that St. Joseph's does not have a good bridge to link "new registrations" with real people/organization within our parish. The group also discussed the challenge when 'we' are the 'new' person walking into a group of women that clearly "know each other".

- Father might provide a list of new 'registrations' at each meeting. Ladies from existing circles could initiate personal contacts; offering the invitation to join a new circle. We may even need to add new circles to partner interests and objectives to the individual.
 - Note: All circles support basic services. Many of the circles seem to have a particular gift that they offer the parish.

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- We might utilize Flock Note to reach out to existing members as well as new women. This could be a good way to update contact information and gather particular gifts of the various circles.
 - Mary Ellen offered to investigate how this tool might be utilized.

Laundry of Towels

There was a discussion concerning laundry of towels (used in the kitchen of the parish center) at the last meeting. Father is asking for a volunteer to take over this responsibility. Father reported that he has a volunteer covering this.

NEW BUSINESS

Parish Center Cleaning

The bi-annual cleaning for our church includes dusting of all pews, chairs and woodwork. We will not polish any of the wood, the renovation is coming up. Cleaning needs to be complete prior to the start of Advent, November 30, 2025. A list of tasks, along with a sign-up list for parishioners to volunteers will be posted inside the entrance of the Church. Cleaning should be scheduled as convenient for the volunteer between November 15 and November 29.

Support for Home Bound/Care Facilities

A current list of St. Joseph parishioners who are home-bound or in care facilities was distributed. Members are asked to send greeting cards, with a personal note for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Circles 1 and 2 will send to names #1-#7. Circles 3 and 4 will send to names #8-#14. Circles 6 and 8 will send to names #15-#21.

Christmas Giving

A new service project was added in 2024 in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul group to provide meals and gifts for needy families in our community. Three families were chosen last year. Parishioners selected an ornament, printed with items needed, from the Christmas tree at the entrance of the church. God-Teens wrapped the gifts and volunteers brought baked goods to the parish center on a select date/time. Members from St. Vincent de Paul group completed the delivery to families.

Members voted to continue the service. Betty will get names for 3 families from St. Vincent de Paul group. Our goal is to publish names prior to Thanksgiving to support plenty of time for shopping. Mary Ellen, Laura and Jo will organize and publish the names. A decision was made to work with 3 families, providing gifts and meals.

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Catholic School Teachers Appreciation

St. Joseph teachers and staff will be recognized on January 26, 2026, during Catholic Schools Week. Details will be confirmed at the January 2026 PCCW meeting.

CCD / GodTeen Teachers Appreciation

Jo will work with Sara Stedman to determine date for Mass to recognize CCD and GodTeen teachers/helpers. Further details will be shared at the January meeting.

Schedule for Carrying Gifts at Mass

Mass Time	Date	Circle
Saturday, 5:30 pm	November 8, 2025	Circle 6 – St. Theresa
Saturday, 5:30 pm	December 13, 2025	Circle 8 – St. Philomena
Saturday, 5:30 pm	January 10, 2026	Circle 1 – St. Martha

Ladies Night Out

St. Martha – Circle 1 will host the next Ladies Night Out event. Watch for details in the bulletin, Flock Notes and Calendar in the back of church.

CRITICAL: LADIES NEEDED TO FILL ROLE OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT!

Please pray for ladies to consider the gift of their skills to continue the PCCW organization at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. These positions are intended to be 2-year terms. Jo is ready and willing to collaborate with these ladies for guidance if needed. Contact Jo at 402-223-3359.

PRAYERS

Pray for vocation to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Pray for women in our parish to volunteer to fill needed roles in the Altar Society and circles.

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6 pm in Teachers' Lounge/Break room or Parish center.