

St Joseph Altar Society (PCCW)

September 8, 2025

The meeting of the St. Joseph Altar Society/ PCCW was called to order on Monday, September 8, 2025, by President Jo Langley. Opening prayer led by Jo; honoring Mary.

ROLL CALL

Circle 1 – St. Martha: Mary Ellen, Sandy

Circle 2 – St. Zita: Laura, Sara

Circle 3 – St. Veronica: Jo Langley, Lois Little

Circle 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: None.

Circle 6 – St. Theresa: Cyndi Novotny

Circle 8 – St. Philomena:

Priest - Father Kosch.

St. Ann - Betty Bstandig

Guest – Sandy Needham, Angela Fujan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes handed out to those at the meeting. Electronic provided to Sara. Approved by Laura, second by Cyndi.

CORRESPONDENCE

Megan Powers sent thank-you for graduation gifts.

FATHER KOSCH

Father sent Flocknote asking for someone to clean the church as Mary Ellen will be leaving for a new position in another parish.

The oven cleaning resulted in lard smoking when oven was turned on. Information should be shared with other cleaning groups advising them to line ovens and/or modification of the amount of lard used in seasoning the burners.

Roofing repairs are nearing completion, uncovered issues with copper within tower. While it is causing some delays, the work is progressing. Father is working on approval for the interior renovations now.

Father thanks Mary Ellen for all her work over the past couple of years; enabling him to take care of other responsibilities.

LDCCW DEANERY REPORT

St. Joseph's, Beatrice, is to provide sweet rolls and pastries for the Fall Meeting. Tentative meeting is set for late September or early October.

Note: Altar Society/PCCW paid \$270 in dues to the Fairbury Deanery on May 20, 2025. This computes to \$1 for every woman in the parish.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jo represented Altar Society/PCCW at the Parish Council meeting on June 17, 2025. Father Kosch reviewed church roof condition and repairs. Plans for the church floor support, timing of renovation and communication to the parish. Father also reported that he and Mary Ellen Langley also painted the school gym ceiling and school walls. The ice machine (in the Parish center pantry) is scheduled for repair prior to the fireworks began. The primary work of the parish is evangelization.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Discussion at last Altar Society/PCCW meeting related to question, "When does Altar Society pay for Mass intentions for deceased members in our parish and who will inform our treasurer to keep up paying for this?" It was decided that Sara, Parish Secretary, or Father Kosch will inform our treasurer of any names at each Altar Society/PCCW meeting. The Treasurer will then write a check to cover the Mass at that time.

Mary Ellen submitted a list of members deceased since last meeting to Cyndi.

The treasurer reports a current balance of \$14,248.31.

Balance forward from prior meeting	\$ 16,239.05
Total Deposits	\$ 3,106.50
Total Debits	\$ 5,097.24

**Current balance reflects \$6000 in donations given to Altar Society for a new St. Joseph statue at front corner of the church.

Fiscal reports were delivered to Sara, Parish Secretary, in late July.

COMMISSIONS REPORT

Spiritual –

Prayers were answered! The conclave for the new Pope began on May 7, 2025, and within two days a new Pope was announced. Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected Pope Leo XIV on May 8, 2025. The first Pope from the United States and from here in our Midwest.

We offered a prayer for the Holy Father, Pope Leo XVI.

Legislature –

No report.

Service –

Laura shared information on a new organization that intends to expand support to vulnerable pregnant and parenting moms in Gage County. An informational meeting is scheduled for September 25, 6-8 pm, at Vintage Venue. Contact is Gina Tomes; gtomes@herplan.org.

Big Give Gage is planned for Thursday, September 11. Many worthwhile organizations can be targeted for gifts. The value in giving via this non-profit event is that many of the businesses sponsor the event and offer matching gifts.

Laura shared information about a program, Flame of Love, offered at the retreat center in Nebraska City. She was very moved by grace received through this program. This might be a topic for 'Theology on Tap'. Laura is willing to gather more facts if there is interest.

OLD BUSINESS

Graduation Breakfast

The High School Graduation breakfast was hosted by Altar Society/PCCW Circles 2, 4 on Sunday, May 11, 2025. Invites were sent to 12 Seniors and their families, with plan to serve 60 people. The breakfast menu was cinnamon rolls, yogurt parfait, fresh fruit, juice, milk and coffee. Gifts given: a book entitled "How to Stay Catholic in College", a greeting card, candy bar and a holy card. Every Senior's mother received a single stem flower at 8 am Mass during 'Sign of Peace'. Circle 3 provided decorations, which included decorations from another graduation party held in the Parish Center. Thanks to all!

Dues

During the last meeting, there was discussion about increasing \$30/year due/donation amount requested from all women in the parish. It has been many years since the amount was increased. The consensus was there is no need to increase as we have sufficient funds coming into the Altar Society/PCCW at this time. The matter can be reviewed again next year.

Prayer to Saint Monica

St. Joseph Altar Society/PCCW took place during the month of July; with parish reciting this prayer aloud at all masses between July 27 and August 2. Thank you to Father Kosch for leading the prayer at the Mass times.

Bake-less Bake Sale

The annual Bake-less Bake sale was scheduled for 2 weeks in July; July 12-13 and July 19-20. This is our largest fund raiser for the year. There was an insert in the bulletin to explain with an attached marked envelope for donations. There is also an option for online donations under "Altar Society Dues and Donations". Cyndi reports that \$1,942.00 has been collected so far.

Parish Center Cleaning

Jo sent out a handout to all Circles, outlining the schedule for cleaning the parish center. A sign-up list for this is posted in the Parish Center pantry. Circles should coordinate within their group and make sure to confirm the timing with Father Kosch.

NEW BUSINESS

Parish Center Cleaning

Thank you to all Circle members who came to clean the Parish Center and kitchen before the opening of the new school year.

If your circle has not yet come, please complete your assigned duties and arrange your time to come in with Father Kosch. Be sure to sign your name and date the task on sign-up list inside the pantry. It would be good to have the cleaning done before Church renovation begins. Thank you!

Annual LDCCW Diaper Drive

The 16th annual LDCCS Pro-Life Diaper Drive will be collecting diapers throughout the month of October. The goal is to collect 100,000 diapers within our Diocese. Watch the bulletin for details!

The Madonna Plan

The “Madonna Plan” collects donation of \$1 from each household. Collection baskets have been provided in October. Father shares concern that several appeals are targeted for October. Laura motions that \$270 be donated from our treasury. Motion seconded by Cyndi.

Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women /LDCCW

The last weekend in October is set for recognition of Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW). This is a time to honor and pray for all Catholic Women in performing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy within our parish. Father will add this to petitions during Mass.

Support for Home Bound/Care Facilities

We have gotten a request from residents who are home-bound or living in care facilities to have someone join them in prayer. The request is for individuals to visit and pray the rosary with them. Could you volunteer to pray with them or do you know of anyone who might be willing to support this request? Contact Lois Little at 402-239-0934 if you are interested or would like more information.

Ladies Night Out

Circles will be taking turns in hosting the “Ladies Night out”. We are still waiting for Circle 3 to plan and inform us when this will occur. Watch bulletin for information on this.

Schedule for Carrying Gifts at Mass

Mass Time	Date	Circle
Saturday, 5:30 pm	September 13, 2025	Circle 3 – St. Veronica
Saturday, 5:30 pm	October 11, 2025	Circle 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Saturday, 5:30 pm	November 8, 2025	Circle 6 – St. Theresa
Saturday, 5:30 pm	December 13, 2025	Circle 8 – St. Philomena

A motion was made to continue scheduling Mass on 2nd Saturday of each month during 2026.

Altar Society/PCCW Services

Jo noted that St. Joseph parishioners may not be aware of the many services provided by the Altar Society/PCCW. She mentioned the altar supplies, parish and community activities, circles. A magnet was created several years ago by Laura Koch. Jo proposed that discussion continue to encourage more participation. Cyndi will work with Patty to propose something.

Laundry of Towels

There was a discussion concerning laundry of towels used in the kitchen of the parish center. The individual that was handling this is no longer available. Father and Jo will investigate. Father is washing them until a permanent solution is found.

TWO LADIES NEEDED TO FILL ROLE OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT!

It is important for these ladies to have an understanding as to what this role of responsibilities are.

These positions are intended to be 2-year terms. Jo is ready and willing to work alongside 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, November 3, 2025, at 6 pm in Teachers' Lounge/Break room or Parish center.