

**THIS MAY 19 & 20. . .**

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

The annual election of two new members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will be held the weekend of **May 19 & 20**.

Members of the PPC are selected according to a process defined by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The council is made up of nine elected and appointed members, along with members of the parish staff serving as ex-officio council members. The composition of the PPC is meant to reflect the diversity of the parish community. The pastor presides over PPC meetings.

**ELECTIONS:** Each spring, parishioners are invited to nominate individuals to run for election to the PPC. Biographies of nominees are published prior to the election. Two parishioners are elected to serve three-year terms, with a third parishioner appointed by the Pastor. PPC meetings are held monthly from September through June, generally on the evening of the fourth Monday of the month.

**YOUR REPRESENTATIVES:** Parish Councils serve in an advisory role to the pastor utilizing the many and varied gifts of the laity in service to the Church as it carries out the mission of Christ. The PPC encourages parishioners to share their hopes and concerns regarding parish life. You are cordially invited to contact any council member to discuss any issue of concern.

**CURRENT MEMBERS:** Parish Council members are elected for one term of three years with reelection possible for a second three year term with a maximum term limit of six years. Current members and their terms of office are:

**Nathan Ball** 2020

**Mary Beth Fritz** 2020

**Paul Lavallee** 2019

**David Makowicz** 2018 eligible for reelection

**Marie Martino** 2019

**Laura Nicholas** 2020

**Jim Ryan** 2018 not eligible for reelection

**Martha Wilbur** 2018 not seeking reelection

**Stephany Ziegler** 2019

**WHO CAN VOTE:** Registered members of St. Norbert Parish who are at least 18 years of age are eligible to vote for 2 candidates.

**This Year's Nominees:** The following are the nominees for two slots on the Parish Council with one additional person to be appointed by the Pastor. Voting will be held the weekend of **May 20 & 21**.

## PARISH COUNCIL NOMINEES

### Brian Fila

My parents sent me to St. Norbert's for Kindergarten through 8th grade, so I have been coming to Mass here for as long as I can remember. After St. Norbert's school I went to Bishop Shanahan, where I was able to continue my Catholic education. It was there that my faith started to become real. Following High School, I attended Old Dominion University. It was at this time where I had to make my faith my own, as it was a state school with very few practicing Catholics and plenty of opportunities to stray. Eventually, I started getting involved with campus ministry, becoming a student leader, where I led a small group, became a Communion minister and participated in multiple retreats. I also had the opportunity to attend mission trips over my school breaks which I believe helped put things in perspective for me and helped me to realize how blessed I am. I met my fiancé at school and remained in Virginia after graduating until I felt I was ready to come home. My time in Virginia definitely wasn't a straight path to holiness. I had many ups and downs in my faith, but I believe I needed the experiences I've had and the lessons I learned. Once home, I wanted to become more involved in the parish I grew up in. I have been in multiple small groups, most recently "That Man is You!" as well as becoming a Communion minister. I am honored to even be considered as a candidate for parish council. I think I can learn from and grow with the members of this parish. Currently, I work for a consulting firm and have had some experience with how a business grows and operates. Building a business can have many similarities to growing a parish in that you must be willing to listen to people, be brutally honest and aware of people's changing needs.

**Vision For Our Parish:** St. Norbert's is already one of the most vibrant parishes in the area, but there is always room for improvement. We can become more welcoming to newcomers and current parishioners alike as well as create more diverse ways for people to grow in their faith, as everyone encounters Jesus differently. With the current state of the world, we should strive to be more empathetic to people's differences, find out what people need, and create an environment that people will want to keep coming back to.



### David Makowicz

It has been both a blessing and an honor to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council for the past three years. I appreciate the heavy weight our pastor carries in leading a large congregation with diverse spiritual needs. I believe my skill set from business operations contributes to the Parish Council as we discuss larger issues facing the parish.

My family joined the parish in 2001. Since that time, we have witnessed the amazing growth of our parish into the vibrant body of Christ it is today. It is important we continue to steward our many gifts through the service of our



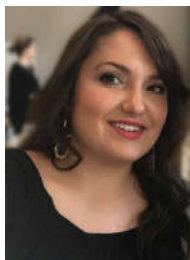
various ministries in carrying out our parish vision. It is important to me, personally, that we continue our efforts at welcoming all people to join us in worship and to share their gifts with their fellow parishioners. My family continues to be blessed in many ways by all of you, particularly in your genuine acceptance of our family's special needs.

**Vision For Our Parish:** The particular journey we walk as a family is made easier knowing we travel it together with people who love the Lord and show His love to us. I hope you will entrust me with another three years of service to our community.

## Tobey Mathas

Three years ago, I was away from the church, and it is because of God working through the parish of St. Norbert that I am now writing this letter. I grew up in St. Andrew Parish in Newtown, but stopped going to Mass while in college. I became a teacher, got married outside the church, and did not seek to renew my faith. God somehow called me to teach in a Catholic school and there I met people who were so strong in their faith I felt like an outsider. Because of my volunteer work with the Legacy of Life Foundation (LOLF), I was offered a job in development. I accepted so I could help mothers who were considering abortion say yes to life. It was there my conversion began. About 3 years ago, St. Norbert had a fundraiser for LOLF, and I came to speak at Mass. I didn't know then that it was the next stop on my conversion journey. Later, I met someone who wanted to get married and share in my faith. We were attending Mass near his home, but we were ready to give up. It was then we remembered AbbeyFest, and St. Norbert. My fiancé, Jim and my daughter, Alegra stepped out in faith with me to join St. Norbert about a year ago. We were welcomed with open arms into the incredible RCIA program so that Jim could become Catholic. I was converted, too, and we are both serving as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. During this time I was accepted as Director of Development into the community of Emmaus Home, a Catholic nonprofit serving adults with intellectual disabilities, based on the theology of Jean Vanier.

**Vision For Our Parish:** My vision for the parish is to help St. Norbert more fully recognize the phenomenal gifts it has and use them to bring even more lost sheep back home.



## Jeanne Oswald

In 2015, my husband Russ and I left Yardley, PA, and moved to Paoli in order to downsize and be closer to two of our four children and four of our eight grandchildren. When we told our parish priest in Yardley where we were moving, he told us that St. Norbert Parish is a truly special place, and we knew almost immediately that he was right. Two of our children and their families are now members of the parish as well. Becoming a member of this parish has been a true blessing for me and my faith has grown immeasurably. I was raised as a Lutheran and converted to Catholicism in col-

lege. I went on to earn a doctorate in education at Rutgers University, which prepared me for a 35-year career, ultimately serving as the Executive Director of New Jersey's state higher education agency. I also had the honor of serving as a member and Chairperson of the NJ Special Olympics Board of Directors. My work with Special Olympics and subsequent experience working with underserved, disadvantaged youth and adults brought me closer to God and my faith than I had ever been. But it was not until I got involved with the St. Norbert Parish that I truly felt God working in me more each day. I have volunteered in the parish in various ways since the spring of 2015, including participation in Fervent Disciple discussions and a weekly faith sharing group. I serve each week as an outreach driver to procure food for those in need, I assist with food distribution, and I have volunteered at AbbeyFest and Lenten service days. For the past two years, I have also served as a co-chair for Lenten small groups, and I cherish the sharing and faith experience that those groups provide.

**Vision For Our Parish:** In the coming years, my vision is to expand St. Norbert's reach and open even more hearts and minds to God's love and message. I would be honored to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council to help bring the parish closer to its vision by providing opportunities, encouragement, and a spiritual environment for all to encounter our Lord.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WEEKLY:

**Sundays:** **EDGE**, 10:05-11:15 AM Youth Group Room; **Youth Group** following 6 PM Mass; **Dads Basketball**, 7-9 PM, Gym

**Tuesdays:** Dawn Seekers Bible Study, 8:30-10 AM, Parish Office Dining Room; **Walking With Purpose** 9-11 AM, School Cafeteria.

**CONTACT:** Lisa McGowan at [mcgowanlh@gmail.com](mailto:mcgowanlh@gmail.com); **Young Adults Faith Sharing**, 7:30-9 PM, Parish Office Lower Level, **CONTACT:** Hank Fila at [hankfila@gmail.com](mailto:hankfila@gmail.com) or 610.513.9768

**Wednesdays:** **Outreach Food Procurement Distribution**, 10 AM-1:30 PM, Narthex; **Christian Practice of Yoga** 10:30-11:30 AM, Parish Office Lower Level; **JCREW** Youth Group, 7-9 PM, Youth Group Room

**Thursdays:** **Adoration** 8:30 AM-8 PM, Oratory with **Reconciliation** 7-8 PM; **Legion of Mary**, 9-10:30 AM, Sacristy Meeting Room.

**Saturdays:** **Adoration** 4-5 PM; **Reconciliation** 4-5 PM, Oratory or by appointment

### UPCOMING:

**May 9 & 10 Ascension Thursday**, Vigil Mass 7 PM Wed, 5/9; Thurs 6:30, 8 & 10:30 AM, Church

**May 10 May Procession & School Mass**, 9 AM, Church

**May 10 Prayer & Healing Night**, 7:30 PM, Church

**May 13 Mother's Day**

**May 13 Gethsemani 12 Steps Spirituality Night**, 7:30-8:30 PM, Oratory. **CONTACT:** Martin K 610.291.1140

**May 15 Bereavement Group**, 8:30 PM, Parish Office Meeting Room. **CONTACT:** Pat 610.647.8280 or Sharon 301.775.5709

**May 17 Gethsemani Addictions Prayer Night**, 7-8 PM, Oratory. **CONTACT:** Mark Christmyer at 610.644.1655 ext 131 or [mchristmyer@parish.stnorbert.org](mailto:mchristmyer@parish.stnorbert.org)

**May 18 Spanish Community Family Rosary**, 7-9 PM **CONTACT:** Cecilia Silva-Palacios, [silvacd77@gmail.com](mailto:silvacd77@gmail.com)

**May 19 Witness Sunday, Name Tag Weekend & Hospitality** All Masses