



Katie Burke (Ellicott City, MD)
Number of Years in the Parish: 3 years
Occupation: Stay at home mom and nurse

I have been an active lifelong member of the Catholic Church. I graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio with a degree in Nursing. I am married and have 2 children. My daughter attends Saint Louis School and my son has special needs and is in the public school system. In the Parish, I joined the Women’s Bible Study and became involved in the ACTS ministry. I’ve also enjoyed participating in Kingdom Builders, The Epiphany Project, Vacation Bible School, the Clarksville Picnic, and being an assistant leader in American Heritage Girls.

I continue to be struck by Saint Louis’ welcoming charism and contagious enthusiasm and would like to play an even more active role in supporting the parish. I was initially drawn to Saint Louis Parish because of the SPRED program which offers religious education for children with special needs. I have realized how important it is to have a special place for these kids to grow in faith and would like to bring this perspective to the pastoral council.



Nick Clemens (Columbia, MD)
Number of Years in the Parish: 1 year
Occupation: Adult Education, Program Management Instructor

I want to serve on the Saint Louis Pastoral Council to help the parish succeed as a vibrant Catholic community. I have experience and organizational skills that I feel would benefit the Council. But, most importantly, I have the desire and time to dedicate myself meaningfully to our parish community as a council member.

I am a new member at St. Louis Church, having joined with my wife Cindy this summer. I have been attending daily mass at St. Louis for over a year. Cindy and I have been involved in the Discovering, Following, and Sharing Christ programs, ACTS retreat, ACTS team events, and the adult bible study at St. Louis. I am also a facilitator for Discovering and Following Christ.

Previously I attended St. John’s Catholic Church in Columbia, where I served as a youth faith formation instructor for 7th graders, Eucharistic Minister, and Sacristan. I am also a member of the Knights of Columbus, having served as Grand Knight and District Deputy for multiple years, and am a third-order religious member of the Institute of the Incarnate Word.

If it’s our Lord’s will, I look forward to serving our community and parish as a Pastoral Council member.



Laura DaPra (Ellicott City, MD)

Number of Years in the Parish: 15 years

Occupation: Fourth-Grade Teacher at McDonogh School

I started attending mass at St. Louis in 2008 with my then fiancé, Michael. Shortly after we got married, I decided to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church and started the RCIA process. At the Easter Vigil in 2009, I received the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation. Since then I have been active in the St. Louis community and have been busy raising a young family. Michael and I have 3 children, Josh (12), Rosie (10), and Timothy (8), who are active in Faith Formation and Youth Ministry.

Additionally, I am quite involved in St. Louis Cub Scout Pack 108 by supporting the efforts of my husband, who serves as the Cubmaster. I have previously served the parish community as a speaker for the Pre-Cana ministry and a Kindergarten Instructor for the Faith Formation ministry. Also, I have volunteered as a leader for Vacation Bible School for many years in various roles. As a young Catholic, I attended Discovering Christ and Following Christ through the ChristLife organization. I am passionate about teaching children and young Catholics about how to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus in active and meaningful ways.



Ryan Dworski (Clarksville, MD)

Number of Years in the Parish: 24 years

Occupation: Part-time Theology graduate student, part-time small business consultant

In my years at St. Louis, I have been involved in several parish ministries including Children's Choir in middle school and Youth Band and the Folk Group in high school. During this time, I was quite involved in CYM and served on the Leadership Team during my senior year. I was also a mentor for the Act Now middle school religious education classes. Additionally, I attended and later served on the Teen ACTS retreat team five years in a row. While attending Mount Saint Mary's University, I continued to stay involved in St. Louis activities while I was home on breaks. Now, I serve as Chair of the Faith Committee for the Knights of Columbus here at St. Louis.

In a time when youth Mass attendance and overall involvement in the Church is at record lows, I believe it is essential for young people to be part of determining real solutions to reverse the trends. I would like to think that my involvement with the Pastoral Council could help to set an example and encourage other young people to be more active in the Church.



Monica Keeney-Sherlock (Columbia, MD)
 Number of Years in the Parish: 25 years
 Occupation: Healthcare Provider-Team Lead at
 Howard County General Hospital

Hello brothers & sisters in Christ!

Several of you know me through parish ministries in which I serve - ACTS, Christ Life, Contemporary Music group, Clarksville Picnic volunteer. I also volunteer in many non- church community events. I've considered serving on Pastoral Council for years and believe this year is the right time. I have experience as a healthcare provider and manager, which will prove useful to the challenges our church faces.

Our Pastorate is a strong community comprising two Parishes with unique identities and charisms. Continued efforts in fostering a broad sense of community and unity while respecting the uniqueness of each Parish is essential.

St Louis embraces a strong family focus and I will strive to ensure that issues & concerns of our young and mature families, as well as those who are facing losses, are met. Our families, in all phases of life, need support, opportunities to grow and contribute to the well-being of our Parish. I look forward to helping our parish as we move forward; strengthening our community, supporting families & individuals in every state of life, using our financial resources wisely and in service to all. Last, I ask for your vote.



Victor Okorie (Burtonsville, MD)
 Number of Years in the Parish: 11 years
 Occupation: IT DevOps Cloud Engineering

I wish to serve on the Pastoral Council to become a more active member of the body of Christ and support the evangelization work of the Church, and to fulfill my part in returning former sheep into the fold and expand the reach of the good news of Christ. So far I have served / volunteered in the following activities.

- Served on the ACTS Team Fall 2022
- St Louis Picnic Ground Keeping Volunteer Summer of 2022
- Served on Christ the King Feast 2022
- Chairing The feast this Year
- Our Lady's Center (OLC) - Spring cleaning volunteer



Paul Pellegrino (Columbia, MD)

Number of Years in the Parish: 12 years

Occupation: Government Scientist

As a lifelong Catholic, I have always felt a calling to serve. Both through my career as a civil servant for the Army or as a father of a family of six, I feel His grace most intimately when I serve. Joining St. Louis over a decade ago, my wife and I were overjoyed to find a parish full of vibrant fellowship and spirituality. It is this vibrance that called me to serve the parish in any way I could. My support has touched several ministries including the ACTS ministry as a retreatant, then a team member (multiple times) and finally as a member of the CORE team. This ministry has renewed my faith in ways that I can never fully repay.

I have also rekindled my support of the Knights of Columbus in the St. Louis Council, proudly serving as a participating Knight for five years and now as an officer (recorder) of the council. I wish to now offer my service to the parish as a candidate for the Parish Council as a faithful member of the parish with an overwhelming desire to use my time and talent in service to my God and His body the Church.