



VOTING NOW OPEN

**HOLY CROSS - PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
2019 CANDIDATE BIOS**

Please review the candidate bios provided and prayerfully select four (4) candidates that you would like to help lead our Holy Cross Parish in the next phase of development and growth.



Stephanie Coleman

My family and I have been faithful members of Holy Cross Parish since 1992. A native of Philadelphia, I graduated from Little Flower Catholic High School with top honors and was awarded a full academic scholarship to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. I later completed my legal studies at Widener University. Having passed the Pennsylvania Bar, I am a licensed attorney in this state. I had my own law firm for 25 years, and presently am employed as an attorney for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council is to foster full participation of the entire Parish in the life and mission of the Parish and of the Universal Church, as well as act as advisor to the Pastor. My fellow parishioners, I have the experience, the faith, and the spiritual gift to work with our Pastor to represent your interest on the Parish Pastoral Council. I ask you to vote for me, a humble and productive Catholic that will listen to your concerns and bring them to the surface for action.



Anji Johnson

I am an active, dedicated Holy Cross parishioner for more than 8 years and have been involved in the Parish Planning Committee - responsible for the HC Pope Pastoral visit, establishment of Sunday devotions, youth & outreach ministries. I graduated from St. Scholastica's College & Philippine Law School, Manila, Philippines and a lawyer by profession. As a Veterans of Foreign Wars claim consultant, I have helped more than 250 veterans & their families to receive VA compensation, healthcare & state benefits. I believe that my past experiences with communications, evangelization & spirituality will help me be an effective member of the parish pastoral council and will greatly benefit the entire parish and its people.



Donna Lindner

I grew up in NY and graduated from Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine. I moved to Philly in 1996 and was lucky enough to move practically next door to Saint Madeleine Sophie, where I was warmly welcomed. I became a choir member, cantor, flower arranger, eucharistic minister, hospitality person and sacristan. SMS became like a second home.

Perhaps because I was always around, church members often came to me to talk about concerns, complaints, requests that they seemed reluctant to discuss directly with the "higher ups". So, I am very interested in helping to improve the lines of communication in both directions, especially now, as we continue to try to unify our church family.



Dan MacFarland

As a Pastoral Council member, I will focus on Evangelization and Communication. I will rely on my experience as an educator and business professional to share with our Mt. Airy community the remarkable works of our parish. As the president and one of the founders of the Men's Catholic Association, I intend continue our mission to support the church and its organizations and to grow our presence in the Mt. Airy community. I am a proponent of transparency and open communication, enabling the voice of all parish members to be heard.



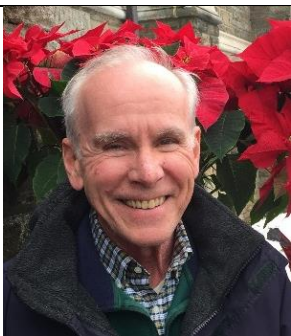
Ruhamah 'RT' Mail

In 1999, I became a member of Saint Madeline's Sophie's Parish. Retired from Insurance Precertification, etc. about a year ago now. I am currently a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. I am interested in becoming more involved with the Holy Cross Parish life, communication, spirituality and growth. Currently, I am an active member of the Holy Cross Book Club. I enjoy making people happy and am happy to call Holy Cross my church family.



Marie McVeigh

I arrived in the newly-formed Holy Cross Parish in 2013 and have found here the spiritual and parish home I had been seeking. But home, in this case, is a bit of a commute since I live in Havertown, about 5 miles away. That makes the community mission of Holy Cross all the more compelling to me; having been saved and sustained by the many "neighbors" of the parish, I want to help extend further the Grace I've received in your company. I am an experienced writer and editor - that is, word-nerd and grammar-police - and would hope to use that to give voice to the spirit here.



David Scheid

I have lived in Mt. Airy and have been a member of Holy Cross parish since 1980. I have a BA degree from Duquesne University. Recently retired from the Social Security Administration position of program leader in the disability quality section, I am now dedicated to serving the Church. Currently I am involved in the Sick and Shut-In Ministry of Holy Cross Church (hospitals, nursing homes, home bound and bereavement), as a Eucharistic Minister, and in the collection counting ministry. I'm also active with a Marianist lay faith group, on the board of directors of the Condominium where I live and serve as hiking coordinator in the Philadelphia Trail Club. Experience in these diverse groups has helped me to develop and deepen my faith and to work with people of different backgrounds and ages. Through these experiences, I have developed patience, good listening skills, and the ability to quickly assess people's needs. I would like the opportunity to serve Holy Cross Church so that we can grow and make Christ known in our community.



Susan Tobia

As a long-time member of our parish (first at St. Madeleine Sophie's) and a key player in our transition from three parishes into one, I have been joyfully honored to share in the spiritual journey with so many members of our parish family. Through my teaching and administrative experiences at a community college, I learned the importance of building relationships; growing as a spiritual community is also about relationship – with God, with our pastor, and with one another. Engaging as a pastoral council member, I would do my best to live our Lord's commandment to love one another and listen to your needs and suggestions as we work together to provide opportunities which enhance our journeys along His way and encourage others to "come and see".



Margaret Diane Wood

I came to W. Mt Airy and found Holy Cross Church in 1987 just as I started my internship in medicine. Other than participation at Mass, my involvement was minimal, but I found beauty in the church and the music and the inspiration provided by the clergy both soothing and motivating. As my call schedule lightened, I was able to teach 3rd grade in the PREP program for a year, I sang in the choir three years, and joined the flower committee. I think the efforts to community are well underway through the hard work of our current ministries. Programs to increase Spirituality and Evangelization are more difficult to develop in some ways. Opportunities for group prayer and for study in our faith are offered but are not always well-attended. These efforts should be continued and strengthened. Our community responds well to 'projects', for example the Chosen 300 project. The outpouring of generosity of time and donations was inspiring and impactful. I think I could be helpful in any of the above mentioned ministries.