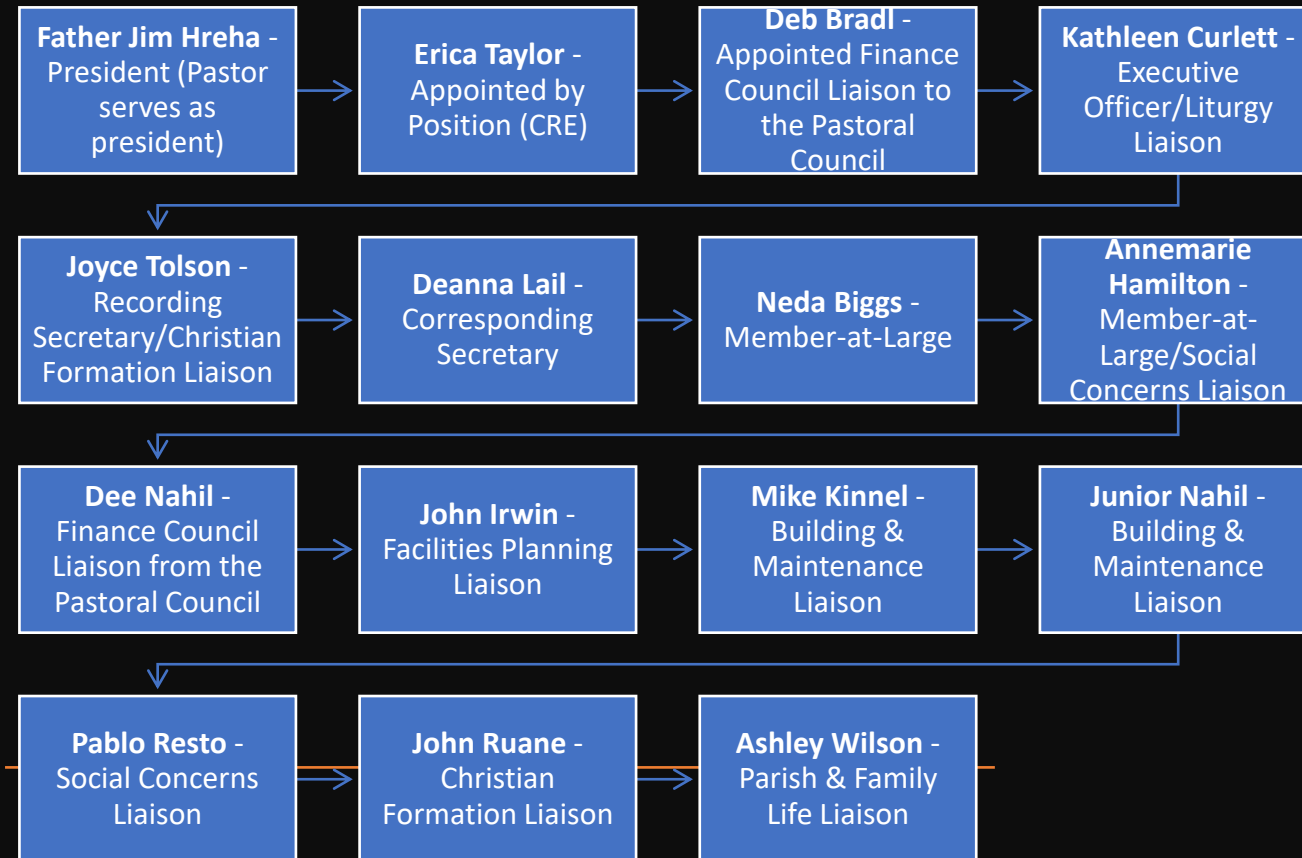


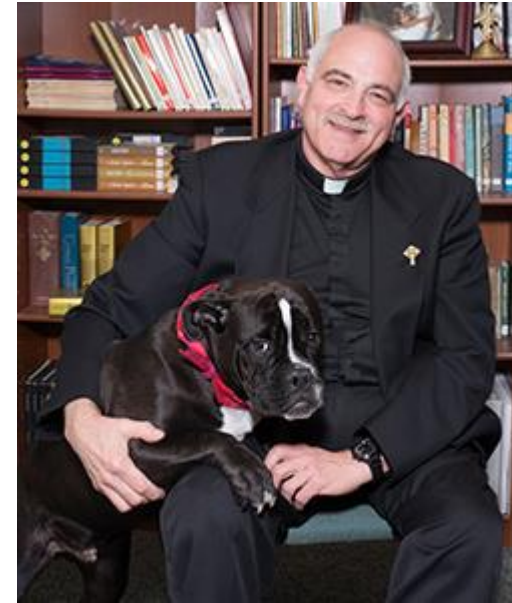
St. Polycarp Pastoral Council



2023-2024 Members



REV. JAMES DONALD HREHA was born in Darby, Pennsylvania. He received his early education at St. Pius X School and Devon Preparatory School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He began his studies for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook, Philadelphia, PA. Upon graduation he pursued a career in law enforcement as a Correctional Officer at the Chester County Prison. He returned to his studies for the priesthood for the Diocese of Wilmington. He completed theological formation at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland and was ordained on November 7, 1987 at St. Peter's Cathedral, Wilmington, Delaware by Bishop Robert E. Mulvee. He was first assigned as associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Church, Wilmington, Delaware. In 1990 he was transferred to be the associate pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Wilmington, Delaware. In 1992 he was appointed chaplain to the Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna, Delaware and in 1997 he was assigned as associate pastor to St. Peter the Apostle Church, New Castle, Delaware. In June 2000 he was assigned as associate pastor at St. Edmond's Parish in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware with special Pastoral Care of St. Jude Mission. On November 30, 2002 St. Jude Mission was erected as St. Jude The Apostle Parish by Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli and Rev. James Hreha was appointed the founding pastor where he served until being assigned to St. Polycarp Parish in Smyrna, DE in June of 2015. In the summer of 2017, Fr. Jim was appointed Pastor of St. Dennis in Galena, Maryland (effective September 8, 2017) in addition to his assignment at St. Polycarp.





Erica Taylor-CRE

- My name is Erica Taylor and I'm the CRE here at St. Polycarp. Before becoming the CRE, I was the 1st-grade Catechist in PSR for 13 years. I loved every minute of it! I have been married to the love of my life, Chuck Taylor, for almost 27 years, and have 3 amazing sons together. We are all dedicated to our faith and are each involved in various ministries within the Church. Smyrna became home for us in 2005 and from the moment we stepped into St. Polycarp Church, this became our home too. When I'm not in CRE mode, you can find me soaking up the sun by our pool, on a beach somewhere in the Caribbean, or simply enjoying precious time with my family and friends whom I cherish with all my heart.



Deb Bradl-Finance Council Liaison to Pastoral Council

- Hi, I am Deb Bradl, a member of the Finance Council, liaison to the Pastoral Council, and current chair of the Social Concerns Committee. I work full-time for the State of Delaware, am married to Michael, and have two daughters. I have been a member of St. Polycarp Church for 17 years.

Kathleen Curlett- Executive Officer

- Kathy has been a member of Saint Polycarp Parish since 1996, when she and her family moved to Smyrna. She and her husband, Bob, have one daughter, Lauren. Kathy earned her undergraduate degree in Music at the University of Delaware and her Master's in Elementary Education at Wilmington University. Kathy retired from the Smyrna School District in 2020, where she taught both 5th and 6th grades at John Bassett Moore and Clayton Intermediate Schools. She currently volunteers at CIS as the PTO treasurer. Kathy also serves as the ADK chaplain for the State of Delaware.
- Kathy served as a catechist for Saint Polycarp's PSR for 15 years, teaching various grade levels throughout her tenure. She has been on the Liturgy Committee for 9 years, acting as the recording secretary. She serves as the unofficial music director here at Saint Polycarp, assisting with many aspects of this ministry. Kathy is our current Executive Officer for the Pastoral Council, entering her 2nd term of office.



Joyce Tolson- Recording Secretary and Christian Formation Liaison

- Joyce Tolson and her husband, Ronnie, moved to Delaware from Forestville, Maryland in June 2006. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Joyce retired in 2020 after 33 years as a Paraeducator in both Maryland and Delaware where she worked with students from Pre-K through 4th grade, mostly in Special Education.
- In Maryland Joyce served, at Holy Spirit Parish, as a CCD teacher (for over 25 years), and a CRE (Coordinator of Religious Education) for 3 years. She was also a member of the choir and Liturgy Committee, as well as the Pastoral Council.
- Here at St. Polycarp Parish, Joyce has served as a PSR teacher, PSR assistant, and on the Christian Formation Committee for several years. Currently, Joyce is the PSR Pre K Catechist. She became a member of the Pastoral Council when Father Jim brought back the Council in November of 2015 and served as Recording Secretary during her 2+ terms. Joyce rejoined the Pastoral Council in June 2022 and is currently serving her second year as Recording Secretary.



Deanna Lail- Corresponding Secretary



- Deanna Lail has been a Parishioner at St. Polycarp for the last 15 years. She is the chairperson for the Parish and Family Life Ministry and became a member of the Pastoral Council in May of 2022. This year Deanna will serve as the Corresponding Secretary for the Pastoral Council. She is also proudly serving as Secretary of the St. Polycarp Brother Vincent Columbiettes. You may have also seen Deanna in the PSR hallways as she recently finished her time as a Catechist for Pre-K for more than 10 years, along with her Mom, Darlene, as her Assistant.
- Deanna married her husband, Dana, here at St. Polycarp Church in September 2011. Their son, Alex, who will be 12 in August, is a Squire and an Altar Server at St. Polycarp.
- Deanna loves devoting her time to the Parish along with her full-time job with WSFS Bank where she has worked for almost 10 years.

Neda Biggs- Member at Large

Neda Biggs was baptized and confirmed in Christ Episcopal Church in Dover, although her mother had come from a large Irish Catholic family. In her teens, due to personal trauma, societal unrest, and exposure to anti-Christian beliefs, Neda left the Episcopal church and led a secular but spiritually searching life. She believes that God had been calling her home to the Catholic Church at different times in her life: through attending Latin Mass with her cousins as a child; meeting Mother Teresa in Calcutta in 1977, and through Catholic writers she found when she returned to the Episcopal church in 2018, after many years away from organized religion. In 2019, on the anniversary of her baptism, she started receiving unmistakable signs that the Catholic Church was the true Church. She found great teachers and friends, first in books and videos, and then in person. She discovered Saints she loved, Divine Mercy, the mercy of Purgatory, and the healing and transformation of the Sacraments. Since her acceptance into the Catholic Church at St. Polycarp on 8/4/20 during the Covid pandemic, Neda has become Catechist in our PSR Program and an RCIA Team Member. She recently became a member of our Christian Formation Committee and loves to share her faith with others in our Connected in Christ faith-sharing group. She is grateful to be a member of the Universal Church and the St. Polycarp family.





Annemarie Hamilton- Member at Large and Liaison to Social Concerns



- Annemarie Hamilton joined St. Polycarp Parish in 2022. Prior to that she attended Saint Joseph the Worker in Wheeling, Illinois where she sang in the choir. Her love for music and theater was solidified at an early age. She grew up with her mom playing the piano and singing, going to Broadway shows and the ballet. Despite her feet not touching the floor on those big theater seats, and her father carrying her up the steps of Radio City Music Hall, these are among her favorite memories. Although Annemarie had theater in her heart, she also loves science, so she gained a biology degree from Chestnut Hill College in Philly and pursued a career in medicine. She's dedicated her working life to clinical research with several pharmaceutical companies - but most recently had worked on oncology research, giving options to patients who think they've run out of them. She has also done volunteer work at Covenant House in New York. Annemarie still invests in shows in NY on Broadway, off-Broadway, and in the West End in London but here in Delaware she has a little farm - much like Old McDonald's. There are thirty ducks, twenty geese, 4, turkeys eight hens, four roosters, and 2 Australian swans. Many are rescues and she loves them all.



Dee Nahil – Finance Council Liaison Jr Nahil- Building and Maintenance Liaison

- Coming from a military family, we involve ourselves in the service of our Catholic church community wherever we are stationed; whether stateside or overseas. We serve in our own little way to help our military parish by being a lector, eucharistic minister, parish council member, religious education teachers, and altar guild member which includes washing altar linens, robes/albs for our altar servers. When we returned from our tour in Germany, we volunteered with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) for small businesses and low-income taxpayers.
- I retired from the US Air Force and am currently with the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service as a Revenue Officer. We raised two wonderful daughters. My eldest daughter Danica is a Registered Nurse at Christiana Hospital. My youngest Alexis is currently serving on active-duty service in the US Army; she is a 1st Lieutenant stationed at Fort Drum New York. Both of our daughters were altar servers until close to graduating from college.
- My wife Dee is born and raised in the Philippines, and we have been married for 32 years. She came to the US in June 1991 and has been working for the Defense Department for 27 years (Finance and Accounting). She is currently working at Dover Air Force Base in the 512 Air Wing Reserve as a Budget Analyst and Resource Advisor.



John Irwin- Facilities Planning Liaison

- John is a 2010 graduate of Youngstown State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He has worked for a flooring distributor for the last 10 years and currently leads the sales team from Delaware through Indiana.
- Originally from Steubenville, Ohio, John and his wife Whitney moved to Smyrna in 2016. They have three young children, Justin (9), Amelia (8), and Allie (4). Justin and Amelia have made both their first Reconciliation and Communion here at St. Polycarp with Allie up next.
- John enjoys all sports and outdoor activities. He has just finished his second year on the Pastoral Council where he has served as the Liaison for the Facilities Planning Committee.





Mike Kinneel- Building and Maintenance Liaison

- Michael Kinneel has been a Catholic for his entire life and is a graduate of Salesianum School in Wilmington. He has been a member of St. Matthew's in Wilmington, St. John the Beloved, and St. Catherine of Sienna. Mike moved to Harley over forty years ago and retired from ILC in Dover in 2014. Mike has served as an usher for more than 10 years at St. Polycarp. He became a member of the Pastoral Council last May where he served as the Liaison for the Building & Maintenance Committee.



Pablo Resto- Social Concerns Liaison

Pablo Resto is a Navy Veteran. He retired as a Power Plant Operator with 37 years of service for Calpine Energy. He has been a member of St. Polycarp Church for over 10 years. He is an active member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society and the Knights of Columbus. Pablo is currently serving is 5th year on the Pastoral Council.

John Ruane- Christian Formation Liaison

- Born and raised in Wilmington, DE. Went to St. Paul School in Wilmington, Salesianum High School. Class of 65 and Delaware Tech. Spent 6 years in the United States Army National Guard.
- Worked as a Land Surveyor since High School and have been licensed in DE and NJ for 40 years and now am happily retired.
- I've been married to my wife Rosalie (Cookie) for 53 years this June. We have 4 adult children and 13 grandchildren.
- Along with my wife we have been involved with several ministries in the Church including Youth groups, Family Life, Pro Life, the Charismatic Renewal and Adult Faith Formation programs.
- We've been parishioners here at St. Polycarp for a little over 3 years after being at St. Joseph in Middletown for 25 years. I have served on the Pastoral Council for about a year.



Ashley Wilson- Member at Large

Ashley Wilson was born and raised in Smyrna and has been a member of Saint Polycarp Parish all her life. During her elementary school years, she attended Holy Cross Elementary School. Ashley graduated from Saint Thomas More High School to further her faith-filled education. Ashley has strongly committed to her faith by attending Holy Cross Elementary School, Saint Thomas More, and receiving the sacraments at Saint Polycarp Church. She believes her success is grounded in her faith.

As an educator with the Smyrna School District for thirteen years, she now teaches higher education at Wilmington University's College of Education. This experience has enabled her to bridge the gap between traditional K-12 education and higher education. This experience has prepared Ashley for her role as a teacher at Saint Polycarp Church, where she teaches Children's Liturgy of the Word every month. Sharing God's word with the children brings her immense joy.

