

2021 Pastoral Council Member Inductees

Please welcome the newest members of the Christ Our Redeemer Pastoral Council! The new inductees are **James Yurack, Robert Waller, Ben Tabor, Kevin Morgan, Gerry Freisthler, and Sharon & Paul Dooley**. They will begin their three-year terms on the Pastoral Council this November. Please get to know them with their information below as they represent the Parish in an advisory role for Father Bob to organize, coordinate, and support activities within the parish.



James Yurack grew up in New Alexandria, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh. He attended Penn State University where he met and married Amy Loch in 1994. Entering the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant, he served in various acquisition program offices before graduating from the US Air Force Test Pilot School in 2002. He has served the Catholic Community as a lector and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion before his career brought him to Eglin AFB and Niceville in 2009 where his family became members of Christ Our Redeemer. Jim has been active in the Knights of Columbus and is currently Past Grand Knight of Council 13527 and is also a member of Assembly 3236. He looks forward to being able to serve on the Pastoral Council and help the parish grow as a community.



Robert Waller is originally from Ravenna, Michigan, a small farm town in western Michigan. Robert grew up in a Catholic family of 6 on a farm raising cattle and bailing hay. He attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and then immediately entered the active duty Air Force as a commissioned officer from the AFROTC program. He attended pilot training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, and then became qualified in the F-15E at Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina. He was stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina, as a combat pilot before he attended the USAF Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California. Following TPS, Robert was stationed at Edwards AFB, California, and then Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, before arriving at Eglin AFB, Florida, in the summer of 2020. He and his family immediately became members of Christ Our Redeemer upon their arrival. He is a 1st and 2nd grade Sunday school teacher and an active participant in the men's This Man Is You program. Robert has been happily married to his wife, Tristin, since March 2006. They have two children, Ashton, who is 7, and Grayson, who is 4.



Ben Tabor grew up in Sanford, FL. He received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Central Florida in 1995 and entered the Air Force as a Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer. That same year, he married his high school sweetheart, Stacey. While stationed in Omaha, NE, their son Nathan was born and while in San Antonio, TX, their daughter Samantha was born. Ben and his family moved to Niceville and joined the Christ Our Redeemer family in 2008 and retired from the Air Force in 2018. Ben is a member of the church choir and the Knights of Columbus.



Kevin Morgan is the third of four children and was born in Mineral Wells, TX. His father, an Army Aviator, moved the family to Enterprise, AL in 1974. Upon graduating Enterprise High School, Kevin attended Auburn University and graduated with an electrical engineering degree. He began working as an AF civil servant at Eglin in 1986. He met his wife, Joan, on Eglin and they were married at St Mary's in FWB in 1992. After 38+ years at Eglin, Kevin retired in October of 2020. Kevin & Joan have 3 young adult children. Kevin has served on the Doughnut Brigade, as a Knight and usher. Kevin and his family have been parishioners of COR since 1996 and Kevin converted to the Catholic faith in 2012.



Gerry Freisthler grew up with his two brothers and one sister in the small farm village of Russia, Ohio. He attended Wright State University where he met and married his wife, Cherie. He spent his early career working as an Engineer for GM, before becoming a civilian engineer for the USAF in 1982. In 2002 as a new Air Force SES the family was moved from the Pentagon to Eglin AFB. His family settled in Raintree and became members of Christ Our Redeemer in 2002. Gerry and Cherie have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Cherie is a volunteer for Niceville Catholic Outreach. Gerry is a member of the Knights of Columbus, a lector and sings in the 10:30 choir.



Sharon & Paul Dooley: Sharon was born in San Diego and raised in Grand Bay, Ala. Paul was born in Philadelphia and raised in Mobile, Alabama. They met while attending Auburn University. Sharon graduated from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, with a bachelor's degree; Paul graduated with his bachelor's degree from Auburn, and he earned master's degrees from both University of West Florida and University of Florida. They moved to Niceville in 1987 and raised two sons, Andrew and Sean. Sharon is a freelance journalist and Paul is an engineer with a local defense contractor. They are charter members of COR and Paul is a charter member of KOC 13527. They are both active in the donut brigade. Sharon leads the Easter basket drive, while Paul does what he's told to do for the Easter basket drive.

We also thank out-going members: ***Kathy Vandenburg, Mary Jane Sullivan, and Ken Rodriguez*** for their dedicated service to the Pastoral Council over the last four years, volunteering to extend their time on the Council through the pandemic.