Following are the nominees running for St. Barbara’s Parish Council. The election will be held the weekend of April 22-23, 2017.

Autourina Mains - I have been a parishioner at Saint Barbara’s Church for over 35 years. For over 25 years I have had the pleasure of serving as a CCD teacher. I have also had the privilege of serving as a Eucharistic Minister. I am passionate about evangelizing and teaching the faith.

Peter Sloan- My name is Peter Sloan. My wife and I moved back to Powell about 2 years ago after I retired from the military. During my time in the service I was on the parish council at Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina and oversaw the merging of two parishes into one, due to base closures. I also worked in various other ministries serving the Catholic communities on the bases where I was stationed and was deployed. I currently work for the State of Wyoming dealing with child abuse and neglect, adult protection and juvenile probation for the Powell area. I look forward to the possibility of serving the community of St. Barbara’s in this new way.

Diana Kalt- Bob and I have been married for 55 years and have 7 children. After running a family retail business for 25 years, we retired to Powell 17 years ago so that I could be closer to family. I have found St. Barbara’s to be a very welcoming parish. It has helped me grow in my spiritual walk. As a member of St. Barbara’s I have served on the Building Committee, helped with funeral dinners and am a weekday lector. I am grateful for the opportunities of daily Mass and Adoration that are available.

Josephine Rodriguez- I have lived in the Big Horn Basin area since 1995 and in Powell since 2012. As a member of St. Barbara’s Parish I have been active in the Women’s Group, especially in facilitating discussions on Catholic teaching and issues. In previous parishes I have, from time to time, served as CCD coordinator, and as president the parish CCW, and as president of St. Joseph (Lovell) parish council. Josephine Rodriguez

John Silva-
My name is John Silva and I am a sinner. I was baptized a Catholic as a baby and my brother and I were dragged to church every Sunday by our mother. I spent the first 30 years of my life just going through the motions of being a Catholic and a total hypocrite. I have broken every one of the Ten Commandments. I have lived a life that did not meet the expectations of my Lord God or his son Jesus Christ. A day came when I finally had to make a choice about what I was doing on earth and if God would be pleased with what I had been doing with the time and talents he had blessed me with. Since that day I make a practice of asking for forgiveness of my sins and try to be the man God intended me to be. Even though I am still a sinner I am able to own up to my sins and keep working at living a life the Lord can be proud of. “What you see is what you get” with me. I offend my fellow man just about as often as I can inspire him. I take the responsibility of leading my family in faith very seriously. I also take the job of a husband and a father very seriously. I am a humble servant of God, a devoted husband to a wonderful woman and a proud father of three awesome children of which I have adopted one, inherit one and conceived one. My church family is also an important part of my life and I would proud to serve them in any way I am called to do so. So there you have it folks I am a sinner working at staying on the path God intended for me.
Mike Reed—R. Michael Reed was born in 1962 and is the middle child of five children from a small Catholic family. He has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Moving to Powell in 1999, he and Icia entered the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

He and Icia, his wife of eighteen years, seek to do the will of God with their lives. Michael serves the staff, students, and parents of Powell’s School District as the Technology Director by seeing to their needs through ever-changing technologies.

Together, they strive to raise the remaining five of six children, who are still at home, rooted in the Truths of the Catholic Church on a small three acre farm. Their daughter, Martia, participates in the Annunciation Choir, DTS and Teens for Life. Their son Vito has served as an Altar Boy and William currently serves in that capacity.

In the past, Michael served as a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. He is currently a Knight of Columbus and a Knight of Divine Mercy.

Vickie Prante—Hello, my name is Vickie Prante. My family and I have been members of St. Barbara’s Parish for over 25 years. We moved from ND when my husband, Bill, was hired by John Deere. We have two grown sons, Jacob, a sophomore in college and Tucker, a senior in high school. Over the years I have been involved in several activities at St. Barbara’s including the Welcome Back committee, teaching CCD, furnishing salads/desserts for funeral dinners, as well as meals for families with newborns. I have also served as Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist for several years and Parish Administrator for five years. If selected, I look forward to serving our faith community on the Parish Council.

Roseanne Spiering—I was born and raised just outside of Powell and have been a life-long member of St. Barbara’s Parish. Over the years I have been involved in many of the parish activities: helping the Knights of Columbus with breakfasts and yard clean up, as well as volunteering for Dano events and parish picnics. While growing up here I participated in the various youth activities such as summer bible school and DTS. Most recently, I assisted my family in hosting and coordinating the Catholic Rural Life Mass in August 2015. Upon graduating from Christendom College in May of 2015, I returned to the Powell area and am now working and living here. I am looking forward to being an active adult at St. Barbara’s and contributing to the parish needs as best I can.
Paul Vibe-
At your request I am submitting a brief resume to support my interest in a position on St. Barbara’s Parish Council.

My wife Kathleen and I became members of St. Barbara’s in about 2006. At that time we were both received into the Roman Catholic Church after attending RCIA., taught by Fr. Peter Johnson. Prior to this time we were long time Episcopalians. We left the Episcopal Church seeking a church that carries and believes in the true message, strength and hope of Christianity. The message handed down by Jesus Christ Himself.

Since joining the congregation of St. Barbara’s we took great interest in our church. I Joined the Knights of Columbus. Our parish priest at that time was Father Glen Szczechowski, he honored me with appointment filling a vacancy on Parish Council. I served on the council for approximately 3 years. I learned a lot about how our parish and diocese function while serving on the council.

The Parish Council serves the important purpose of expressing their Baptismal responsibility by assisting the parish priest who presides at the council. From time to time the council might offer their advice on pastoral matters in the parish. The lay faithful are able to make their opinions known on matters concerning the good of the Church.

As a council member I would take great interest toward members of the parish promoting a position of evangelizing to both believers and non believers who have grown lax or abandoned the faith. I believe that the parish council can and should be a great helper to our Parish Priest. It is up to the lay-ministers to take on this task.

I am also a strong supporter of education in our faith. The Roman Catholic Church helped settle the west before the Declaration of Independence. Let’s teach our children of the strong background we come from. Catholics have much to be proud of when it comes to Christianity in our great country. Remember always, “WE WERE HERE FIRST” long before the protestants.

If I am chosen to serve on Parish Council I promise to do my very best concerning the good of the church.

Yours Faithfully, Paul Vibe

Mary Ellen Robinson-
I was born in Powell and baptized, made my first communion, confirmed, and married at St. Barbara’s. I was fortunate to have received CCD instruction from grace-filled sisters who were part of the St Barbara family. My wonderful husband, Earl; my loving son, Brooks; and I volunteer for many activities at St. Barbara’s and have served on many committees.

I attended public school from grade school to high school in Powell and earned my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Wyoming. I taught Spanish at Northwest College for over 33 years. My family and I have travelled extensively in our country and around the world. I have worked closely with people all of my life and appreciate the concepts of organization, good communication, honesty, and hard work.
Jennifer D’Alessandro- My name is Jennifer D'Alessandro. I am a special education teacher of 22 years and have lived in Powell for the last 9 years, actively participating in Mass and parish life. I grew up in St. Joseph parish in Lovell and between these two parishes and my college parish and Newman Center in Nebraska, have found great spiritual and faith journey growth in living my faith through service.

In college, I was on the prayer line, played music at mass, was a lector and was involved with Newman activities. In Lovell, I have facilitated family faith programs such as FIRE, lectured, served on the Parish council, a building committee member in working towards making the facilities more handicap accessible, and youth ministry as the Jr. High and high school CYO coordinator as well as teaching CCD. For 3.5 years under Father Wright's tutelage, I was the Newman Center Director here and attended parish council meetings to report out on the workings of that ministry, am a VBS leader, and I am currently serving our parish as one of the high school faith formation leaders.

If elected to serve our parish in this role, I will work for each and every member of our parish to see that our faith community be as rich and inviting a community as possible. Our youth are my passion because in fostering a community that grows them deeply and embraces all that they can enrich our parish life with, the potential of our parish can be more deeply enriched for all. It is imperative that every individual who enters be welcomed, invited, embraced, and supported. We are all in this faith journey together and we all have something to offer.