

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes February 2, 2026

Attendees: Fr. Joseph Pham, Fr. Alfred Mungujakisa, Frank Gramenzi, Richard Macdonald, Pedro Guzman, Ellie Kandle, Sr. Diana Higgins and Lisa Rice

Opening Prayer – Fr. Pham

Review minutes from previous meeting (10/27/25)

Key Liturgical Dates

Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026	Easter – April 5, 2026
Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026	Corpus Christi – June 7, 2026

Faith Formation/Bible Study

- Current Lessons
 - Catholicism with Bishop Robert Barron
 - 10 episodes – 5 before Lent; will resume after Lent
 - SMS Teachers are watching the series “The Sacraments” by Word on Fire, presented by Bishop Robert Barron
- Lent Events & Activities
 - Fridays of Lent (starting February 20,2026)
 - Soup & Scripture @ 5:45 p.m.
 - Presentation – Catholicism: The Pivotal Players (Bishop R. Barron, 5 episodes)
 - Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Church
 - March 27, 2026 – Religious Education Living Stations of the Cross
 - Parish Mission – Adoration & Benediction (No speaker/too expensive)
 - March 23, 24 & 25 @ 7 p.m.
 - Presented by the Priests & Deacons of the parish
 - Outdoor Stations
 - Will be installed the week of 2/09/26
 - Witness Crosses
 - Working to schedule a date to build the crosses
 - Will encourage free-will donations from parishioners to offset cost
 - Relics of the Saints
 - Working on a date
- Need program for children
 - **URGENT - Need leader** – (must be capped & fingerprinted)
 - Suggestions for leader discussed (S. Waterman, Meg and/or members of SMS mom’s group)

- 2 Age Groups: 3-6th Grade and 7th-12th Grades (Peter Witasik/Felicia?)
- Consider Formed resources
- Consider catering to different age groups
- Come up with a structured program
- Host a retreat for middle school children to provide an encounter and foster a relationship with Jesus

“Called for More” - Disciple Maker Index Survey

- Reviewed survey results compiled by Jim McGuinness
 - There were 162 responders for our parish
 - Parishioners noted desiring to attend mass; to hear the Word of God; to receive communion and to receive direction from the church and Bishop
 - Music could be more vibrant and engaging
 - Suggested action items:
 - Pick new selection of music for masses (Sr. Diana/Liturgical Musical Minister)
 - Instruct & conduct the adult choir (Mary Koza)
 - Recruit director for youth choir
 - Recruit new choir members (Zenith)
 - Respondents felt community engagement through bulletin (not via social media/online)
 - Respondents do not feel moved to read the bible, attend retreats & workshops; have not experienced increased confidence to answer faith questions nor to share their personal faith story; do not feel moved to seek spiritual direction; does not help young people with children

Adoration

- First Fridays – seems to be steady
- Need to encourage Adoration for SMRS school children:
 - Teachers have been scheduling 15-20 minutes mostly on Fridays
 - Need commitment of a regular schedule for each grade from Sr. Dianna
- Need a pamphlet explaining the significance of Adoration:
 - Sr. Dianna has one that she made for our use
 - 3 Parts - Thank you, Lord/Teach me, Lord/Take over, Lord
- **Diocesan** Adoration schedule to be laminated and posted next to shrine in SMS parking lot to encourage Eucharistic adoration across the diocese

Eucharistic Processions

- Upcoming
 - **Palm Sunday** – March 29, 2026 at St. Margaret
 - **Corpus Christi** - June 7, 2026 at St. John Vianney

Presentations

- Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibition
 - Designed by Saint Carlo Acutis
 - Might be a diocese-wide effort

- Two Exhibitions
 - 41 panels
 - 158 panels
- Relics of the Saints
 - Rich working on a date
 - Place: Ministry Center (gym too big)
 - Photo and information display about each saint
 - School children can visit during daytime hours/parents can visit in the evening

Carnival

- Carnival dates May 18-May 23, 2026
 - Would like to have a booth for confession as well as "Ask a Priest" enquiries
 - Pamphlets on Catholicism
 - Parish information
 - School information

Other topics?

- Schedule Deanery-wide Eucharistic Holy Hour (St. Patrick & Incarnation)
- "Forming Intentional Disciples" book handed out to PC members to be read by May meeting (per Bishop Williams)

Schedule next meeting – Monday 5/04/2026

Closing prayer – Fr. Al