

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 - 6:30 PM

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish Hall

Attendees: Gabrielle Andrea, Father James Belogi, Terri Bouchard, Christine Cioffi, Justine Crevetas, Bob Dicostanzo, Deborah Fontes, Arthur Foo, Richard Leet, Fran Mitchell, Nancy Moscheo, Rev. Anthony Onu, Julius Pasquariello, Thomas Poznanski, Kathleen Riordan, Joanne Russell, Alyssa Sarrosa, Kelly Sloan, Joanne Tuchovsky, Christopher Wertman, Alessio Fasullo

Excused: Joan Duda, Betsy Glasser, Teshia Gutchell, Anna Hartz, Gloria Towle-Hilt

Unexcused:

Fran Mitchell presided over the meeting which began at 6:34 pm.

Welcome - Fran Mitchell

Opening Prayer- Read by Julius Pasquariello and all.

Welcome Alessio (Seminarian Intern).

1.) Review of January meeting minutes

- Two notes wrongly placed under Prayer and Worship – SGA were moved to the correct placement under the notes for December Christian Service Reports.
- Teshia Gutchell’s name was added to the December Christian Service Reports section for credit on reporting.
- Footnote was made at the end of the January meeting minutes to express final and approved minutes.
- Motion to approve minutes by **Rich Leet** seconded by **Joanne Russell**.

2.) Ministry Updates

SMS School - Kelly **Attachment 1**

- Total enrollment is currently 184 students, an increase of 6 students compared to last year's total.
- The Kindergarten class is currently full with 24 students enrolled.
- On January 26th, 45 families were present at the open house, many of whom had been on a waiting list since their child was born.
- Tom Tegiocchi has trained and retained 11 altar servers who confidently serve at school masses.
- Higher Powered Learning Grant from the Diocesan School Board has led to the “Do the Rot Thing” sustainability initiative.
- A generous donor has outfitted 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms with white board desks. All classrooms in grades 2-5 now have white board desks.

- Science Fair is returning this year.
- Catholic Schools Week showcased special guest visits from DJ Ketchup, Albany Firebirds mascot Spike and Tri-City ValleyCats mascot Southpaw.
- Gala of Giving will take place off campus for the first time since the pandemic on Saturday, May 17th at the Edison Downtown in Schenectady.
- Drama Club will present the “Wizard of Oz” in May.
- Families have organized extra events including, paint and potluck, spa night, golf outing, and a movie night. A good example of community building amongst the families within the school.

Prayer and Worship update on Lenten/ Easter Planning (Joanne T.)

- Joint meeting of SGA and SMS January 14:
 - Discussed the Triduum at the meeting.
 - Finalized Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday Liturgical Ministers.
 - There will be a collection for palms on February 16th.
 - Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11th.

Family Promise update (Anna)

- Tabled - will report next month.

Additional Reports

- None

3.) Old Business

****Attachment 2: SMS and SGA Finance Reports****

- SMS Finance update:
 - Through the end of December 2024, \$36,526 was collected for the Diocesan Appeal.
 - Current deficit to Diocesan Appeal is \$74,933.
 - Regular Collection is at \$332,991 (\$7,509 Deficit).
 - Electronic giving- 157 parishioners participate in the electronic giving, three new parishioners signed up in January.
- SGA Finance update:
 - Current deficit to Diocesan Appeal is \$29,796.
 - Regular Collections exceeding budgeted figure of \$117,180.
 - Regular Collection is at \$127,678 (for 7/24-2025)

Diocesan Appeal Discussion

- Revitalization of finance councils / committees?
 - No update as of now.
- Diocesan Appeal education for the spring:
 - Diocesan Appeal impact report was recently sent to the church and can be found online at:

<https://thediocesanappeal.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/RCDA-Impact-Report-23-24.pdf>

- We've begun to discuss donating to the Diocesan Appeal at masses.
- Bringing awareness is going to play a crucial role in getting the parishioners to understand the importance of donating.
- Diocesan Appeal resources available on their website.
- Discussed placing Diocesan Appeal envelopes in pews, and in the bulletin, as well as using the white lattice in the gathering area(SMS) to make an informational display.
- Bob DiCostanzo suggested creating a committee to brainstorm ideas for the Diocesan Appeal.
- Nancy Moscheo asked if the Bishop or a Diocesan representative could come and talk.
- Deacon Tom discussed introducing a monthly or quarterly newsletter - sent out via email or text- discussion of collecting information due to having a lack of contact information.
- Newsletter discussion will be continued.
- It was suggested to create a thermometer to show progress of Diocesan Appeal.

4.) New Business

- Parish Picnic - September 7, 2025 at noon, Anna is looking for a committee to help with planning, watch the bulletin for details.

5.) Community Events ****Attachment 3****

Women's Club (Joanne R.)

- Very successful Christmas Craft Fair. 65 crafters were in attendance, including volunteers from SMS Faith Formation and Mohonasen Honor Society.
- Donations from the Women's Club - September to Saint Gabriel's, October to Jean Nicole Prince Home, Nov/ Dec to Georgia Pennacchia for the kids at Saint Catherine's.
- All are welcome to the Women's Club.

Father Jim- SMS hosting Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday. The Stevens Family to plan.

6.) Pastor's Comments- Father Jim

- Tom Cronin will visit us for the March Pastoral Council meeting. He will be discussing our pastoral planning and address the Diocesan Appeal crisis, and how it may impact our parishes.
- Current focus on Lent, Triduum, and Easter to be held at St. Gabriel's this year.

7.) Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rich Leet, seconded by Gaby Andrea.

8.) Closing Prayer was read by everyone.

Meeting conclude 7:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Wertman

Attachments

Attachment 1



St. Madeleine Sophie School Update for Pastoral Council February 4, 2025

Enrollment

Total enrollment stands at **184 students**, an increase of six from last year. Our Kindergarten class is currently full with 24 students, and we anticipate another full class for the next academic year. On Sunday, January 26, we welcomed 45 families to our Open House, many of whom have been on our waiting list since their child's birth. We anticipate limited openings in grades 2-5 for the next school year. **The next Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM and 4:00 - 6:00 PM.**

Faith Formation

- In November, students in grades 4 and 5 participated in the Vocations Fair at St. Paul the Apostle.
- Tom Tegiacchi has trained and retrained 11 altar servers, who now confidently serve at school Masses. We are proud of their commitment.
- During Catholic Schools Week, 55 students participated in the 9:00 AM Sunday liturgy, and 35 participated in our Tuesday Mass. Our joyful school choir, which practices 2-3 times per month after school, continues to enjoy singing at Mass.
- Our partnership with the Dominican Retreat House remains strong. Our staff retreat, a Peaceful Self-Care Day, was a meaningful way to start the school year, emphasizing the importance of inner peace in guiding our students. Fifth graders will have their own retreat day focused on self-discovery, values, and preparing for middle school.
- Second graders are preparing for their First Reconciliation next week, guided by their teacher, Mrs. Kordziel. They are eagerly anticipating their First Communion in the spring.

New Initiatives

- As recipients of the Higher Powered Learning Grant from the Diocesan School Board, we have launched "Do the Rot Thing," a sustainability initiative. The Department of Environmental Conservation provided a session on recycling and waste reduction for Kindergarten through fifth grade. Brother Jacek from Siena College is assisting us with incorporating recycling, composting, and gardening into our curriculum as a cross-curricular and faith-based project.
- A generous donor has outfitted our second and third-grade classrooms with new whiteboard-topped desks. Now, all students in grades 2-5 benefit from these modernized learning spaces, replacing our much loved desks from the school's opening. Additionally, a new stage has been donated for the Parish Center and will be assembled soon. Original desks will be available for purchase as a piece of SMS history.

Academics

- Second-quarter report cards will be distributed this Friday, reflecting the significant academic growth of our students.
- The Science Fair is returning. Students from Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons will help interview our students as they prepare to present their projects to adults in the evening showcase.



Catholic Schools Week

- The celebration kicked off with a Dance Party featuring DJ Ketchup, along with visits from SouthPaw of the Tri-City ValleyCats and Spike from the Albany Firebirds. This launched our "Read for Ronald McDonald House" service project and fundraiser.
- Spirit days, including Crazy Hair and Hat Day and Team Spirit Day, allowed students to express creativity.
- The annual Fifth Grade vs. Faculty basketball game was a highlight, with the fifth graders emerging victorious despite Father Anthony's assistance to the faculty team.
- Our Art teacher, Mrs. Frazier, curated a stunning display of student artwork for the Diocesan Art Exhibit in Albany, where students and families attended a special reception to celebrate their work.

Faculty and Staff

- Our dedicated teachers continue to create warm and engaging learning environments through flexible seating and personalized instruction.
- Grades 4 and 5 recently completed a simulation for the upcoming NYS assessments, helping them gain confidence with online testing.
- Kindergarten through fifth-grade students are currently completing their mid-year iReady Benchmark assessments, allowing us to adjust instruction to meet individual student needs.

Fundraising

- The SMS Gala of Giving will take place off-campus for the first time since the pandemic. Scheduled for Saturday, May 17, at The Edison Downtown in Schenectady, the event will feature donation opportunities. Invitations will be sent out soon, and details will be included in the church bulletin and information counter in the gathering area.

Extracurricular Activities

- Bowling for grades 3-5 has concluded for the season, with thanks to Town N Country Lanes for their ongoing partnership. Creative Movement for our K-2 students has also concluded. There is interest in a running club for the spring that we are exploring.
- Mini Drama Club for students in K-2 has two more weeks before our "Big Kid" Drama Club takes the stage in May with a performance of *The Wizard of Oz*.
- The SMS Service Club continues to meet 1-2 times per month, engaging students from Kindergarten through fifth grade in meaningful service projects.

Community and Fun

Our school family enjoys both working and playing together. Upcoming events include Family Movie Night, the Kids' Gala, and adult-only events such as Paint and Potluck Night, Spa Night, and a Golf Outing.

We are grateful for the continued support of our school community, allowing us to provide a strong academic and faith-based education for our students.

****Attachment 2****

SMS Finance Council Update for Pastoral Council

February 4, 2025

Diocesan Appeal

The 2024-25 Diocesan Appeal is open

SMS 2024-25 Goal	\$111,459
Gifts and Pledges	\$ 36,526
	\$ 74,933 → current

The 2023-24 Diocesan Appeal officially closed on 6/30/2024.

SMS 2023 Goal	\$106,866
Gifts and Pledges	\$79,479.76
Deficit	\$27,389.24

Which was paid from the SMS Operating fund on 8/13/24

Offertory Income

	<u>7/24-1/25</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DEFICIT</u>
Regular Collection	\$332,991	\$340,500	\$7,509
Christmas	\$ 23,769	\$ 30,000	\$6,231

	<u>7/23-6/24</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DEFICIT</u>
Regular Collection	\$563,878	\$630,000	\$66,122
Christmas	\$ 16,628	\$ 34,000	\$17,372
Easter	\$ 21,442	\$ 28,000	\$ 6,558

WESHARE Electronic Giving

157 parishioners are actively giving.
We have added 3 new parishioners to egiving in 2025.

SG Finance Update for Pastoral Council

February 4, 2025

Diocesan Appeal

The 2024-25 Diocesan Appeal is open

SG 2024-25 Goal \$ 42,028.00-bal. (29,796.00) → to raise

The 2023-24 Diocesan Appeal officially closed on 6/30/2024

SG 2023 Goal \$43,041.00

Gifts and Pledges \$21,931.00

Balance \$21,110.00 paid out of the operating account

Offertory income

	<u>7/24-2025</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DEFICIT</u>
Regular Collection	127,678.	117,180.	

	<u>7/23-6/24</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DEFICIT</u>
Regular Collection	225,649.00	\$199,992.00	
Christmas	12,526.	12,000.	
Easter	6,043.00	10,000.00	\$3,957.00
Rental Income	39203.00	38400.00	

October Mass Counts (average)

2024	288	(2 masses)
2023	257	(2 masses)
2022	162	(2 masses)
2021	180	(2 masses)
2020	96	(2 masses)
2019	364	(2 masses)
2018	301	(2 masses)
2017	347	(2 masses)
2016	340	(2 masses)
2015	500	(3 masses)

Women's Club

xmas Craft-fair very successful - approx
65 crafters, tons of cookies were
made ~~at~~ ^{in the} church kitchen. and
donated by the women in the Women's
club. We had a lot of volunteers,
also had ~~4-5~~ High School Kids from
SMS faith formation. and from
mohamason Honor Society They were
awesome!

Donations - Sept - St Gabriel's for Festival
Oct - Jean Nicole Prince Home -
(is a home for End of Life care)
Nov & Dec - Georgie Paniceia, for the
Kids at St. Catherine's

Speakers Oct - Guilt Display
Nov - Rotterdam Police - Scams -
Self Defense

Dec - xmas party
Jan - cancelled - due to cold weather
Feb - speaker on Elder Law
March -