

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 - 6:30 PM

St. Madeline Sophie Parish Hall

Attendees: Gaby Andrea, Fr. James Belogi, Terri Bouchard, Christine Cioffi, Bob DiCostanzo, Joan Duda, Betsy Glasser, Teshia Gutchell, Anna Hartz, Richard Leet, Fran Mitchell, Fr. Anthony Onu, Julius Pasquariello, Thomas Poznanski, Kathleen Riordan, Joanne Russell, Kelly Sloan, Gloria Towle-Hilt, Joanne Tuchovsky, Christopher Wertman, Alyssa Sarrosa

Excused: Justine Crevatas, Debbie Fontes, Arthur Foo, Nancy Lussier, Nancy Moscheo, Donna Simone

Unexcused: Eleanor Bradley

The meeting was called to order by Gaby Andrea at 6:32 PM.

Opening prayer read by Betsy Glasser.

1) Approval of Minutes

The October Council Meeting minutes were approved by Anna Hartz and seconded by Betsy Glasser. Motion carried.

2) Ministry Updates

SMS School Report

Academics:

- i-Ready diagnostic data is being used to deliver targeted instruction in Math and ELA.

Faith Life:

- Daily school prayer, weekly Mass, and ongoing Religion classes continue.
- October focus on the Rosary included instruction and a school-wide prayer gathering in the Rosary Garden.

Extracurricular Programs:

- Bowling (Grades 3–5), School Mass Choir (Grades 1–5), Service Club (Grades K–5), Brain Games (Grades 4–5), Creative Movement (Grades K–2), Mini Drama

(Grades K–2, spring), Drama Club (Grades 3–5, Jan–May), Running Club (Grades 3–5, May–June)

Social-Emotional Learning:

- Weekly Prevention classes (K–5) led by Amanda Goyer focusing on communication, decision-making, character, and emotional regulation.
- School counselor Bethany Keating (2 days/week) provides individual support, classroom visits, and “lunch bunch” social groups.

Family & Community Events:

- Color Run & Fall Sale (Sept. 26): Nearly \$30,000 raised; excellent family participation.
- Family Movie Night (October): Well-attended and community-building.
- Cookies & Cocoa with St. Nicholas: Scheduled for December.
- Gala of Giving: Scheduled for March 21 in the Parish Center. Planning underway, collecting Live & Silent Auction donations. Contact Kelly Sloan for contributions or attendance.

SMS Music Ministry

- Report Attached

Liturgy Report (Presented by Joan Duda on behalf of Nancy Lussier)

- Updates on liturgical teams and integration with hospitality weekends.
- Efforts have been successful, resulting in:
 - 3 new music ministers
 - 3 new lectors
 - 2 new live-stream assistants
 - 4 new Eucharistic ministers

3) Old Business

Remade for Mission Updates

- The October meeting was cancelled due to transition under the new bishop.
- Working groups are currently on pause.
- The previous goal of presenting recommendations by April is no longer expected.
- Father Kelly encourages parish-wide “synodal” gatherings to discuss mission, parish life, and engagement.
 - Likely to occur in the Parish Center gym.
 - Facilitated by Nancy Lussier.

Finance Committee

- SMS Finance Committee has been reactivated: Members: Arthur Foo, Nancy Lussier, Nick Candloro, Pat Slavik and Tom Tegachi.
- No update yet on formation of the SGA Finance Committee.

Pastoral Council Mission & Parish Engagement

Council discussed ways to expand parish ministries and improve community engagement. Ideas included:

- Card-making for the homebound.
- Movie night following Mass.
- Advent wreath-making event.
- More interactive classroom-style faith formation.
- Seasonal liturgical crafts (palms, Advent wreaths, etc.).
- Increased focus on engaging youth and families.

Fr. Kelly emphasized creativity and mission-driven ideas aligned with Remade for Mission.

4) New Business

- None

5) Community Events & Devotions

- Altar & Rosary Society meeting at SMS – November 11th at 7 PM.
- Christ Child Society: Comfort bag assembly – Saturday November 8th, 11 AM- 3 PM.
- Shopping Extravaganza – Saturday, November 15th, at SMS Parish Center, 9 AM.
- Bake Sale – Sunday, November 23rd following Mass.

- Family Promise scheduled for November 30th, pending identification of a family in need.

6) Pastor's Comments (Fr. Jim)

- Reminder: St. Michael the Archangel Prayer will be added after the closing hymn beginning the First Sunday of Advent.

7) Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Fran Mitchell; seconded by Gloria Towle-Hilt. Motion carried.

8) Closing Prayer

- Led by Julius; prayed by all.

Meeting adjourned: 7:31 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Wertman

ATTACHMENTS

November 4, 2025 Pastoral Council – SMS Music Ministry Report

- The SMS School Choir this year has 23 students singing in the choir from grades 1 through 5. This group of students rehearses 2-3 times a month and sings at all school liturgies including those that occur 3 times a year on the weekend. Several of the students also sing in the SMS Youth Choir which is great to see so many school families attending Mass on weekends.
- The Guilderland Interfaith Advent Service of Lessons and Carols is once again happening this year on Sunday, December 7th at 4pm at Christ the King Church. Deacon Tom will be attending and reading a scripture on behalf of SMS. The Joyful Heart (adult) Choir will be singing a contemporary song “Awake to the Day” as well as the song “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” with the other choirs as the combined choir anthem.
- The Joyful Heart Choir will be singing for the 10pm Mass again this year for Christmas Eve. A small group of singers, many of whom attend and sing at the Sunday 7pm Mass, will be coming together to sing for the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve. A cantor will sing for the 9am Mass on Christmas Day.
- We have increased choir membership in all of our choirs this year especially in the Youth Choir and Resurrection Choir.
- The members of the SMS Music Ministry have all been invited to sing for the Works of Mercy prayer service at St. Kateri on Sunday, November 16th (rehearsal at 12:30pm at St. Kateri) as well as for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, November 18th (rehearsal at 5:30pm in the church mtg room). There likely will be slightly smaller groups for each liturgy than on a normal weekend.
- After our discussion at last months Pastoral Council meeting the Liturgy Team met and decided to begin the Prayer to St. Michael following the closing hymn. This will begin the weekend of November 29/30 for the First Sunday of Advent. Justine will lead the prayer at the conclusion of the closing hymn and any postlude. I have included the following in the worship aid going forward.

***If you so choose, we invite you to remain in your pew to pray
the Prayer to St. Michael at the conclusion of the closing hymn.***

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.