



PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 - 6:30 PM

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish Hall

Attendees: Gaby Andrea, Fr. James Belogi, Terri Bouchard, Eleanor Bradley, Bob DiCostanzo, Joan Duda, Betsy Glasser, Teshia Gutchell, Anna Hartz, Richard Leet, Nancy Lussier, Fran Mitchell, Nancy Moscheo, Fr. Anthony Onu, Thomas Poznanski, Kathleen Riordan, Joanne Russell, Kelly Sloan, Joanne Tuchovsky, Christopher Wertman, Alyssa Sarrosa, Bruce Smith, Colleen Stevens

Excused: Christine Cioffi, Justine Crevatas, Debbie Fontes, Arthur Foo, Julius Pasquariello, Donna Simone, Gloria Towle-Hilt

The meeting was called to order by Gaby Andrea at 6:30 PM.

Opening prayer by all.

1) Approval of Minutes

The February Council meeting minutes were approved with revisions by Anna Hartz and seconded by Fran Mitchell. Motion carried.

2) Ministry Updates

Liturgy SMS (Joan Duda) –from March

- Triduum held at St. Madeleine Sophie (SMS)
 - First combined Triduum with all three parishes participating across ministries.
 - Clergy: 2 priests and 2 deacons; received very positive feedback
 - Holy Thursday: highest attendance
 - Good Friday: strong attendance
 - Easter Vigil: highest attendance in years, including 7 baptisms
 - Overall Easter attendance estimated at 1,000–1,100 across parishes
- Easter Sunday
 - SMS 9 AM: full



- St. Gabriel's: very high attendance
- St. Margaret's: strong attendance
- Overall feedback from Fr. Belogi and parishioners was very positive regarding collaboration and turnout.

SMS/SG Finance

- SGA
 - Easter collection: \$10,294
 - Diocesan appeal:
 - \$21,346 collected (\$20,347 remaining)
 - 51% of Assessment
 - Regular: \$153,806 collected
- SMS
 - Easter collection: \$18,426 (up significantly from last year)
 - Diocesan appeal:
 - \$66,887 collected (\$29,572)
 - 69% of Assessment
 - Regular: \$73,053 collected

SMS School (Kelly)

- SMS Gala of Giving – March 21
 - Net profit: \$41,800
 - Record attendance: 190 guests
 - Event was well-executed with excellent décor.
 - DJ Ketchup provided strong emceeing and auction support.
- School Updates
 - Enrollment and re-enrollment for next year underway.
 - Kindergarten through 3rd grade are full.
 - 4th grade nearly full.
 - Pre-K (ages 3 & 4) nearly full.
- Student Highlights
 - 5th grade participated in a “Pilgrimage of Hope” in March. Students joined Siena College for a tour of St. Mary's.

SGA Prayer and Worship (Joanne Tuchovsky)



- Ministers and Volunteers:
 - Added 2 altar servers, 2 lectors, and additional Eucharistic ministers.
 - Recruited 2 cross bearers for major holidays, positive response and would participate again.
- Holy Days and Events:
 - St. Gabriel Feast Day and All Souls events were well attended with strong hospitality.
 - Memorial Mass (Nov 3): 80 attendees, meaningful participation and positive feedback.
- Parish Engagement:
 - St. Michael prayer has been added after Mass with strong participation.
 - Volunteers supported Christmas decorating.
- 2025 Attendance:
 - Increased attendance: Christmas (581), Palm Sunday (500), Easter strong turnout.
 - Decreased attendance: Ash Wednesday and Jan 1 Mass (due to weather and fewer Mass options).
- Special Events: Blessing of the Food with Father Leo included 8 families with strong cultural engagement.
- 2026 Triduum Collaboration held jointly with partner parishes; improved volunteer participation.

3) Old Business

Update Easter Egg Carnival (Anna & Colleen Stevens)

- Highly successful event with 105 children participating, along with many family members.
- Excellent volunteer turnout, allowing all games, activities, and stations to run smoothly.
- Featured 12 carnival style games; children earned one egg per game (up to 12 eggs each).
- Family Promise Ministry provided refreshments.
- \$300 collected in free-will donations.
- Four to five large bins of food donated to the parish food pantry.

4) Community Events & Devotions



Crop Walk (Rich)

- Meeting attended March 9 at St. Kateri.
- The walk will be on May 3 at St. Kateri (Union St).
- Registration begins at 11 AM.
- Ceremony 1 PM discussing the walk and where the funds raised are allocated.
- The walk is estimated to take place at 2 PM (Central Park route).
- Collections at all Masses: May 2–3
- Participants receive T-shirts, snacks, drinks and giveaways.

Hamburg Street Festival (Joanne)

- September 12, 2026
- Celebrating:
 - 250 years of USA
 - Rotterdam
 - Liberty bell
- If our Parishes decide to participate in the event a plan needs to get decided upon.

Advent and Lenten Inter-Generational Events (Terri)

- Strong turnout with approximately 30 participants.
- Provided a positive opportunity for community building and intergenerational engagement.
- All food and toiletries items donated.
- Positive feedback, encouraged to do around a mass time.

5) New Business

Rosary for the Month of May (Deacon Tom)

- Inquiry regarding praying the Rosary before or after Mass during May.
 - This will be the third year of the practice.
- After Mass: more people will have the option to stay, less distractions.
- Before Mass: louder and a higher risk of distraction.
 - Praying the Rosary prior to Mass may help foster a more reverent and prayerful atmosphere before the liturgy begins.
- Quadfold guides will be provided to support participation.



Discernment (Anna)

- Majority of SMS and SGA Pastoral Council members ending their two year term in June 2026.
 - Father Jim, no objection to members extending two year term for an additional year.

Parish Picnic (Anna)

- Three possible dates to host the picnic: Sunday, September 13th, 20th, or 27th.
- Network picnic again this year.
- OLQP, SMS, SGA and Saint Margarets will be included in picnic planning.

6) Pastor's Comments (Fr. Jim)

Diocesan Update (Fr. Jim)

- \$148 million bankruptcy settlement reached.
 - Parishes collectively responsible for \$50 million.
- Each parish's contribution is based on "perceived" ability to pay.
 - St. Madeleine Sophie (SMS): \$800,000
 - St. Gabriel's (SGA): \$200,000
 - Payment required as a lump sum.
 - Timeline: due within approximately 12–18 months.
- Parishes that contribute will receive protection from potential lawsuits.
- Father hopes that parish debts to the diocese may be forgiven if contributions are met.
- Increased offertory to begin soon.
- All Parishes and Catholic agencies are required to pay.
- This must be communicated to Parish members.
 - Communication must begin now.
 - Time frame: May or June
 - Parishwide meeting
- Bishops pastoral planning guidance will be visiting us in September.
- Budgets and planning are underway.

7) Adjournment



Motion to adjourn by Fran Mitchell seconded by Nancy Mosecho. Motion carried.

8) Closing Prayer

Read by Anna Hartz and all

Meeting adjourned: 8:18 PM

**Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Wertman**