

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026 - 6:30 PM

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish Hall

Attendees: Gaby Andrea, Fr. James Belogi, Christine Cioffi, Justine Crevatas, Bob DiCostanzo, Joan Duda, Betsy Glasser, Teshia Gutchell, Anna Hartz, Richard Leet, Fran Mitchell, Nancy Moscheo, Fr. Anthony Onu, Julius Pasquariello, Thomas Poznanski, Kathleen Riordan, Joanne Russell, Kelly Sloan, Donna Simone, Gloria Towle-Hilt, Joanne Tuchovsky, Christopher Wertman, Alyssa Sarrosa, Bruce Smith, Edith Bray

Excused: Terri Bouchard, Eleanor Bradley, Debbie Fontes, Arthur Foo, Nancy Lussier

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Russell at 6:34 PM.

Opening prayer by Rich Leet.

1) Approval of Minutes

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

2) Ministry Updates

Faith Formation (Donna Simone)

Intergenerational Event

- Parishioners participated in several Works of Mercy projects benefiting local organizations.
- Hygiene products and other materials were collected and donated to City Mission and the Christ Child Society.
- Participants assembled 100 bagged lunches for City Mission.
- Participants also created 100 laminated placemats for residents served through St. John's.

Confirmation

- 35 candidates completed the Confirmation program during the 2025–2026 year.
- 28 candidates are currently registered for the upcoming Confirmation year.

First Reconciliation & First Communion

- A total of 52 children from St. Madeleine Sophie Parish and St. Gabriel's Parish participated in the sacramental preparation program this year.

Graduation Ministry

- Graduates will be recognized during Masses next weekend.

Vacation Bible School

- Scheduled for August 10–14.
- Registration forms are available at both SMS and SGA.

Faith Formation Registration

- Registration forms for the upcoming Faith Formation year have been completed and distributed.
- The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for June 4.

Defensive Driving Course

- Eleven participants have registered for the upcoming course.

Catechist Appreciation Dinner

- Scheduled for June 18 at 5:30 PM.

Staffing Update

- Terri will retire from Faith Formation on September 11, 2026.
- A job description for the position is currently being developed.

SGA Christian Service (Teshia Gutchell)

SGA Food Pantry

- Through a generous donation from Price Chopper, the pantry received:
 - 480 jars of peanut butter
 - 144 cans of corn
 - 96 cans of tuna fish
 - 72 cans of chicken soup
 - 168 cans of kidney beans
- These items were shared with both the St. Madeleine Sophie and St. John's Food Pantries.
- The pantry is currently operating at approximately 85% capacity.
- Items still needed include:
 - Cereal
 - Instant mashed potatoes
 - Instant rice
 - Coffee
 - Paper products

- Cleaning supplies
- Condiments
- Personal hygiene products

Faith and Spiritual Study Group Ministry

- Provided a generous food donation to support Father Anthony's neighbors in need in his homeland of Nigeria.
- Purchased two new coffee makers for parish hospitality functions.
- Continues to support both the SGA Food Pantry and the annual CROP Walk.

Hospitality Ministry

- The First Sunday Hospitality gatherings continue to be well attended and well received by parishioners.
- Hospitality will be offered on June 14 following both Masses at SGA to promote awareness of and engagement with the Parish Council.

Women's Club (Joanne Russell)

- New board members have been elected.
- The club is currently planning several day trips and future fellowship opportunities for members.

SMS Christian Service (Gloria Towle-Hilt)

Welcome Table (St. John/St. Ann's)

- Monthly meal service continues on the fourth Saturday of each month.
- Meals served: January (63), February (87), March (82), April (110).
- The next service date is June 27. Volunteers may sign up through the parish website.

Twinning Ministry

- Continues preparing monthly meals for the Welcome Table.
- Meals prepared: January (63), February (75), March (82), April (110).
- The next cooking session is scheduled for July.

Food Pantry

- Currently serving 10–12 families monthly.
- Increased need for gift cards to purchase fresh food items.
- Requesting summer snack donations for children.
- Easter outreach provided food baskets to more than 100 families, a significant increase from previous years.

- Planning continues for Thanksgiving food collection efforts.

Red Cross Blood Drives

- February and April blood drives exceeded collection goals.
- The April drive surpassed 100 units collected for the first time.
- The next blood drive is scheduled for June 22.

Visitation Ministry

- Eight parishioners currently serve homebound members through regular visits and Eucharistic ministry.
- Recruitment effort planned for the fall to increase participation.

Family Promise

- Hosted a family of four this spring.
- The family expected to transition into permanent housing on July 1.
- Parish will assist with household needs as requested.
- Family Promise continues to provide support services after program completion.

Hospitality Committee

- Additional volunteers needed for Saturday 4:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM Masses.
- Committee meeting scheduled for June 11 to discuss volunteer recruitment and potential summer parish events, including a pasta dinner and movie night.

3) Old Business

Update on the Rosary (Deacon Tom)

- The parish's scheduled Rosary gatherings have concluded for the season.
- The program was well attended and received positive feedback from participants.
- Deacon Tom would like to offer the program again in October.
- It was noted that participation may increase if the Rosary is scheduled prior to Mass, and this option will be considered for future gatherings.

4) Community Events & Devotions

Parish Picnic

- Family promise graduates would like to come to the picnic with an ice cream truck for ice cream to purchase. Anna to keep us updated.

5) New Business

Elections

- Pastoral council nomination forms will be available for SMS June 7th and SGA during hospitality weekend of June 14th.
- Elections tabled until September meeting

6) Pastor's Comments (Fr. Jim)

Finances Update

- SGA's financial situation is dire.
- In September, the parish will present a plan to the Bishop outlining how the parish intends to remain a viable, sustainable, and debt-free operating parish.
- Discussions of the finance council will focus on financial stability, stewardship, parish engagement, and strategies to support the future vitality of the parish community.

Summer Mass Schedule

- To clarify, the parish's regular Mass schedule will remain unchanged throughout the summer months.
- All weekday and weekend Masses will continue to be celebrated on their normal days, at their normal times, and at their regularly scheduled locations.

7) Adjournment

Close out of Pastoral Council 2025-2026 year, our next meeting will be held on September 8, 2026.

Motion to adjourn by Anna Hartz seconded by Teshia Gutchell. Motion carried.

8) Closing Prayer

Read by all

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 PM

**Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Wertman**