

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2026-6:30PM
Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish Hall

Attendees: Stephen Adiletta, Gaby Andrea, Fr. James Belogi, Terri Bouchard, Christine Cioffi, Justine Crevatas, Jim Dillon, Joan Duda, Arthur Foo, Teshia Gutchell, Anna Hartz, Fr. Walter Ihejirika, Rich Leet, Nancy Moscheo, Ann Pawkik, Dcn. Thomas Poznanski, Kathleen Riordan, Joanne Russell, Donna Simone, Kelly Sloan, Colleen Stevens, Jason Thompson, Killian Thompson, Gloria Towle-Hilt, Joanne Tuchorsky

Excused: Debbie Fontes, Christopher Wertman, Betsy Glasser

Meeting was called to order by Gaby Andrea at 6:34.

Gaby Andrea began the meeting and Father Belogi did the opening prayer and introduced new members. An election was held and the Chair for Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish is Gaby Andrea, the Vice Chair is Anna Hartz, the Chair for Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish is Joanne Russell.

1. Approval of Minutes

June minutes were reviewed by all and were approved by Tesha Gutchell and seconded by Jason Thompson. Motion carried.

2. Ministry Updates

Christian Service Report-Gloria Towle-Hilt

See attached report

Christian Service Report-Teshia Gutchell (SGA)

- The food pantry experienced a drought in the month of July
- The first Sunday for hospitality will be Sunday October 4th

Prayer & Worship-Joanne Tuchorsky

See attached report

- October 3, 2026 is the Blessing of the Animals at SGA

The Liturgy Team did not meet in August-there is nothing to report for this meeting

SMS/SGA Music Ministry-Justine Crevatas

- Joint choirs will be rehearsing on Wednesdays at 6:30PM
- The Youth Choir will be singing at the 9AM mass once a month and rehearse on Sundays from 5:30-6:15 two times a month
- The SMS choir sings at the 4PM mass
- Joint Cantor rehearsals will take place between the SMS and the SGA cantors moving forward
- Christmas and Easter rehearsals will include SGA
- The Advent Carols at CTK will be on Sunday December 6th 2026 at 4PM and we are meeting next Thursday at 1PM to begin planning
- Fr. Belogi stated that we are planning on continuing the network for the Triduum again this year

Faith Formation- Terri Bouchard

- Terri will be retiring on September 18, 2026 and will only be Donna moving forward, and will need help on Thursdays
- Steven is one of our new catechists and will begin teaching 4th grade
- Religion classes begin for SMS on October 1, 2026 and Tuesday September 29, 2026 for SGA
- Low enrollment was reported and there is hope that more students will be enrolled
- 135 total students for grades 1-11 for combined parishes
- There is need for catechists for the high school students
- Confirmation will be on December 1, 2026 at SMS at 6:30PM there are 42 children and 2 adults making their confirmation this year
- OCIA will meet September 16, 2026 at SMS there are 10 interested, 6 from SMS and 4 from OLQP.
- Call to Serve will take place at Saint Paul's in Schenectady on November 8, 2026 from 2-4PM and registration is required.

School Report-Kelly Sloan

- Family Sunday for SGA and SMS maybe after mass, maybe more class centered and less event like
- Faculty and staff had their professional development before the beginning of the school year, and there is a new 4th grade teacher
- Dr. Joy G. is beginning to work with staff and there is a Fr. Kenneth Doyle Scholarship
- The Dominican Retreat House has made a return and will be working within Tommy DePaola
- Reported that Pre-K-5 is full and the first day of school is September 9, 2026 with 191 students coming to school
- The students have their garden in the back of the school and will continue to see where their food comes from

- On September 11, 2026 Joanne O'Hara will lead the Rosary after 9AM mass in the Rosary Garden for the students to remember 9/11/01
- There is an accreditation visit at the end of October to showcase what they are doing in the school
- There will be a celebration for Terri at noon on Sunday

Finance and Administration-Fr. Belogi and Kathleen Riordan

- Shirley Belouin from SGA accounting last day was September 3, 2026
- Tom Tegiacchi has become the SGA book keeper and will be helping with bills and paychecks for staff.
- Fr. Belogi stated that he was not ready to make a financial report for the Bishop and the Bishop has not said anything further about this
- The bankruptcy payments are due September 15, 2026 from all parishes in the Albany Diocese, Fr stated that he is looking for answers about this for SMS and SGA however there has been no response from the Diocese and there is a meeting with attorneys on September 24, 2026
- Over the summer SGA had a meeting to try to formulate a finance decision but Edith Bray told them that she was unable to continue her position on the steering committee
- Father stated that he plans to have another meeting in the fall, but he needs further instruction from the Bishop
- Father stated that SGA is 6 months behind in paying staff and is not paying employees and SMS has been paying them for SGA.
- SGA fell short with the Diocesan Appeal and Father believes that SGA is not sustainable
- SMS and SGA will have to borrow the money in order to pay for the settlement, and stated that for SGA the debt could be compounded and will continue to grow, the debt could be paid through the selling of property
- Father said that SGA's debt could go to SMS and that SMS has more potential and meeting their expenses. Additionally, SMS could pay debt through the selling of property and there is no restrictions
- There is legal discussion for property that SMS owns, the town meeting about the land sale states that there is an open issue on possible restrictions on selling the property, and it would strictly cover the land.
- The anniversary for SGA to celebrate its history will wait until the spring

4. Old Business-Kathleen Riordan and Anna Hartz

2025-2026 Diocesan Appeal Update and New Assessment-Kathleen Riordan

- SGA had an assessment for the 2025 appeal for \$41,693 and collected \$27, 029.75 and reached 65% of the assessment with a shortfall of \$14,663.25.

- SMS had an assessment for the 2025 appeal for \$96,459 and collected \$97,740.30 and reached 101.3% of the assessment and was over the assessment by \$1,281.30 and received a rebate of \$640.65 from the Diocese.
- The 2026-2027 Diocesan Appeal Assessment for SMS is \$91,801 which is a decrease of \$4,658 from the previous assessment.
- Kathleen said that she did not have the updated appeal assessment for SGA yet

Parish Picnic Update-Anna Hartz

- The picnic will be on September 20, 2026 at Tawasentha Park in Guilderland at 12PM
- Anna predicted that there will be about 50-60 people between SMS and SGA
- The committee finalized what is needed and there will be no ice cream truck

6. Community Events

- Justine stated that NPM chapter of Albany is hosting the Bishop on October 2 at Christ Our Light
- Anna stated that on September 18, 2026 Christ Child Society is having a fundraiser through Panera in Mohawk Commons from 4-8, a coupon is needed, and on October 3, 2026 at noon Christ Child Society is having their baby shower.

7. Pastor's Comments

8. Adjournment-Gaby Andrea

Motion to adjourn by Jim Dillon seconded by Jason Thompson. Motion carried.

- Gaby stated that the next Pastoral Council Meeting is on Tuesday October 6, 2026 and the opening prayer will be her, and the closing prayer will be Anna Hartz. The report will be from the SMS School.

8. Closing Prayer

Read by all

Meeting adjourned: 8:30PM

**Respectfully submitted,
Gabrielle Andrea**

Reports

Prayer & Worship report to Pastoral Council Sept. 8, 2026 - SGA

The Prayer and Worship Committee met last Tuesday, Sept. 1st.

We planned for the feast of the Archangels St. Gabriel, Michael, & Rafael. The feast day is Tuesday, September 29th. We will celebrate it on Sunday, September 27th.

The readings are not in the missalettes. The committee has handouts for the ushers to distribute to parishioners when entering the church. At the end of mass, people will be able to place the handouts in baskets that will be at all the church doors or give them to an usher. The readings will be available on our website.

Refreshments will be provided after the 7:30 and 10:30 Masses.

The binder for the Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3rd is in the Sacristy.

We have begun planning for All Saint's Day and All Souls' Day.

The feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was not a holy day of obligation this year.

We set up Mary's statue in front of the ambo but followed the readings of the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

One Eucharistic minister at the 7:30 mass and one at the 10:30 mass on Sunday has retired from the ministry, so we are looking to encourage anyone interested in this ministry to contact us. At present we will have enough ministers for 3 bread and 3 cups for the 7:30 mass. We have enough subs for the 10:30 mass for 4 breads and 3 cups for the distribution of communion.

I will coordinate with Teshia to have a write up in the bulletin before the hospitality tables on the first Sundays of the month to promote the ministries that are sponsoring the hospitality. Maybe have a display about the ministries, volunteer signup sheet and people in the ministry available to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Prayer & Worship Committee

ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE PASTORAL COUNCIL
CHRISTIAN SERVICE REPORT -Submitted by Gloria Towle-Hilt
September 8, 2026

St. John's / St. Ann's Welcome Table: (Cookie) Parishioners continue as volunteers to serve lunch on the fourth Saturday of the month. Eight to ten volunteers serve the meal which has been prepared by the Twinning Ministry. Meals were served June 27 (130 meals), July 25 (97 meals) and August 22 (102 meals). The next service date is September 26. Parishioners can sign up to volunteer by going to our website.

Twinning Ministry: (Joan Duda) Members meet every other month to make dinner for the St. John's/St. Ann's Welcome Table. The dinner is served on the fourth Saturday of each month by members of our Welcome Table Ministry. The group will next meet to cook in October.

Meal serves for 2 mo

SMS Food Pantry: (Georgianna Pennecchia) The Food Pantry served a number of families this summer. Volunteers collected and sorted donated food items. When needs arose, assigned members prepared bags/boxes for those in need. There is a need for some items and the list will be put in the bulletin.

Red Cross Blood Drive: (Cookie) We hosted Red Cross Blood Drives in April, June and August. All three drives exceeded the goals set by the Red Cross. Our drives are also drawing over 100 donors each time. As always Teresa Rossi works tirelessly recruiting donors and her husband Mike staffs the refreshment area at the drives. Our parish bakers provide lots of cookies which are definitely a big draw! Thanks to the Montone and Doyle families for these goodies. Our registration table is manned by Carol Zahurak, Hilde Knapp and myself. Our next blood drive will be October 12.

Holidays encouraged if possible

Visitation Ministry: (Cookie) Members of this ministry visit our homebound parishioners usually on a weekly basis. If requested Eucharist is brought as well. Our ministers gather monthly to discuss experiences and share ideas. We do this with the Visitation Ministers at

8 members

St. Luke's. This next meet will be a planning meeting for an information session to recruit new members.

Family Promise: (Anna) Our next host week starts September 14. We will be serving a family of four Mom, Dad and two children. Information will be shared in the bulletin and through pulpit announcements. The Doors to the Future Annul Fund-Raiser will be held on Thursday, October 15 at the Italian-American Community Center. Family Promise will be honoring Circles of Mercy which has closed after 30 years of service to the community. We do need to increase of Family Promise volunteers and are planning to do a pulpit talk as well as bulletin announcements. Our current volunteers will host hospitality for that weekend.

Hospitality Ministry: (Anna) We can still use some substitute volunteers to help serve Hospitality refreshments at the 4pm Saturday and 9am Sunday masses.

Doors to the Future
Thurs Oct 16
Italian Club

Fam promise to do hospitality
CSMS
SGA Dec 6