

St. Catherine Pastoral Council Minutes

February 9, 2026, 5:30 - 7:27 p.m.

Present: Fr. Peter Patrick, Mary Krolikowski, Toni Wagner, Kathy Hazen, Colleen Plakut, Tonya Johnson, Kelly Guthery, Kris Reck, Lauren Bondhus, Joe Brien and guest Karen Earle

Excused: Jeff Morzinski, Dayna Gramoll Absent: n/a

Mission Statement:

We are a Christ-centered community, the vital and spiritual presence of the Catholic Church in Sherman Park and beyond.

Living the Gospel we:

- Welcome all to participate with us
- Learn and grow through God’s love
- Join with others to serve the needs of our community
- Honor the sanctity and diversity of life, and
- Celebrate the joy of our faith and community

Prayer and shared reflection: John 17:20-23; theme - Christian Unity

Topic	Discussion & Recommendations
Approval of Jan 2025 minutes	Minutes were approved.
Pastor Report	Fr. wondered about community organizations that we are affiliated with, noting that the Archdiocese does not want the parish affiliated with politically motivated groups. Habitat for Humanity reached out - Catholic groups to construct 7 new homes in the Harambee neighborhood. If we have a group of parishioners interested in volunteering, we can be assigned a project.
Administrator’s Report	A. Daycare evaluation & committee report - Still working on quality improvement plan. Details include a handbook, budget and family engagement. B. Convent repair, rental

	<p>Two groups: Serenity Inn is still interested in renting. Project Return is interested in purchasing the convent. Work is in progress to find appraisal and be able to give a purchase price. <i>See B&G minutes for convent repair update.</i></p> <p>C. School building repairs</p> <p>Ceiling leaking in the girls bathroom. New problems with the school boiler. Not firing properly. School has been closed on several occasions due to no heat.</p> <p>D. Is Census moving forward? YES. The administration office can support, but cannot lead. Tonya asked for a separate task force to work on this project. An updated Census form should include the info needed for reporting to the Archdiocese. Business administrators group through diocese might know more - Tonya to inquire.</p> <p>E. Other</p> <p>Tonya explained the boiler situation for the church/rectory: When it is extremely cold, the boiler can only be turned up to a certain amount. We need to bundle up so that the boiler isn't overworked. Windows leaking cold air are also a problem. In case parishioners question why the church is not warm, we now have an answer.</p> <p>Mary K asked for figures on the insulation project. Tonya and Fr. Peter Patrick agreed that this is a Finance Council issue, no Pastoral Council review is needed.</p> <p>Pledge program = 77 families responded \$162,710. Looking into reaching out to those who have not responded.</p> <p>Tonya encouraged us to let her know if there are monetary needs so that funds can be allocated in the FY 2026-27 budget. Specifically thinking of Informal groups that do programming. (ie Block party)</p> <p>Mary and Tonya will converse about limiting administrative discussions by Pastoral Council, since Finance Council and Buildings & Grounds take care of many items.</p>
Ongoing business	<p>a. Retreat Planning Task Force</p> <p>Karen Earle, Kathy Bottoni, and Laura Jo Davidson from St Sebs will be participating.</p>

b. Evangelization

a. Food pantry -

Mary K. will talk to Rob S. about an area to have hospitality at Food Pantry. Goal of starting this = MARCH 2026

b. Ask Parish Engagement to discuss

1) Invite neighbors to Holy Week or Easter celebrations

Proposed idea: Holy week and Christmas send postcards to people in the neighborhood, inviting them to Mass. Maybe start with school, food pantry, St Vincent de Paul families? School Newsletter could also be an avenue to invite.

2) Signage: We are open

Two conversations - one, updating the INFORMATION sign. Two, getting something simple to let people know that the church is open.

Software is costly for updating the sign. (~\$15K) Joe stated there was a grant to fund this and he will be in touch with Toni.

c. Processes

a. Action word banners—Toni

\$348 for banners. Motion passed for approval.

The banners will be revealed one per week during Lent, starting with the Mission Statement. Mission statement banner could also be part of the procession. TBD.

b. registration of new members: folder contents walk-through: Toni

Registration form, once completed, should be placed on Mary Brooks' desk or mailbox.

Perhaps form can be printed on a colored sheet of paper so as to not get lost.

Observation/Suggestion - add Ethnicity to the registration form to align with the census.

c. Fellowship Sunday

Mary K. proposed that Parish Engagement take up the reins on Fellowship Sundays. Toni will provide a process for hosting committees. A review of the upcoming calendar year showed that March is still "open" for a hosting committee(s). **(Follow up on this?)**

d. Volunteering for ministries

Updated contact lists are still being worked on by Colleen.

	<p>Directory cannot directly be updated on the website, so an addendum to be placed on the website once the update is ready. It can also be posted at the back of church, and sent with the monthly calendar in monthly mailings.</p> <p>DIRECTORY for 2026/27 - When does it need to be ready? Tonya to check with Maria.</p> <p>Interest in volunteering/suggestions: Kelly made a board listing committees for Souper Sunday and she reported that there were suggestions in Finance as well as a Food Pantry connection.</p> <p>e. Pancake Breakfast freewill donations: Mary K spoke to John and he said it was fine to do freewill donations. Give it a trial!</p> <p>D. Strategic planning:</p> <p>a. review of input - the following two goals were explored and determined to be part of the strategic plan moving forward:</p> <p>Improve communication</p> <p>Attract new parish members from community</p>
DEFERRED ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rental agreements for non-parishioner events
Pastoral Council liaisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School meeting - Catholic Schools week to be highlighted next year with a bit more notice. Next year goals can be read on Kelly's minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Love wants more info on learning about the saints. Mary K to talk to her to clarify goals. <i>Note:</i> There is money for education on Black saints (Black and Indian Fund) ○ School library is not being used to the fullest extent possible. ○ Morgan Frank is the child formation person at SEBS, she is part time SPARK teacher at St Catherine School.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swahili Mass - Father reported that KNOW YOUR RIGHTS cards are being handed out. Mary K commented that Voces de la Frontera is organizing supportive non-protesters roles - give rides, bring food to people who are at risk.
Other business/comments/events	Father suggested that the admin report can be pared down and then more of the PC meeting time can be dedicated to strategic planning. This was agreed upon by the group.
Pulpit Announcements	2/15 Lauren 2/22 Kris 3/1 Kathy 3/8 Kelly
	<p>Our deliberations tonight helped to further our Parish Mission by ...</p> <p>... starting strategic planning.</p> <p>...move to having less time dedicated to Administrative</p>
Closing prayer	Hail Mary, Glory Be

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Bondhus

Next meeting - March 9 at 5:30 pm FKCC