

St. Catherine Pastoral Council Minutes

May 11, 2026, 5:30 - 6:40 pm

Present: Mary Krolikowski, Toni Wagner, Colleen Plakut, Tonya Johnson, Kris Reck, Lauren Bondhus, Joe Brien, Jeff Morzinski, Kelly Guthery, Kathy Hazen

Excused: Fr. Peter Patrick Absent: Dayna Gramoll

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: Matthew 28: 18-20; Theme - Go Out to All the World

Topic	Discussion & Recommendations
Approval of Apr 2026 minutes	Minutes were approved via email
Pastor Report	Follow up on Financial Situation - Tonya reported that the budget is still being worked on and Father wrote a letter in the latest mailing which described the situation. Future = More fundraisers, increasing contributions, items will be cut from budget. A FC meeting was held today and they will meet again next week.
Ongoing business	a. Nominations for new Pastoral Council members Mary K asked for 3 nominations per PC member. Names were submitted. Lauren and Jeff offered to call people and invite them once the list is finalized. At least one vacancy needs to be filled on the PC for next year.

Mary K expressed her concerns about the parish's financial future and the need to attract new and/or younger parishioners. Several models were brought up as to how to grow our church community:

- Strength for the Struggle (Joseph Ellwanger)
- Neighborhood community church model
- St Ben's social justice/community services,
- Immigrant community model (Mother of Good Council/St Michaels)

In regards to the immigrant community model, a discussion about the Swahili Mass worshipers ensued. Do they have a home parish? Do any PC members/parishioners go to Swahili Mass held on the 1st/3rd Sundays? Invite them to lead a Fellowship Sunday.

b. Strategic planning:

a. review of input - goals discussed as follows:

More interesting, diverse worship space

Obj. 2 - more variety in art (this does not include the music, as currently the music follows a varied, diverse)

- Pentecost Wind - chimes, wind socks, languages other than English during Mass.
- Graphic Arts.
- Use worship space in different ways.
- Liturgical Dance (Ministry in Motion is one option)

It was suggested that Theresa Utschig is a good resource as she has connections to dance/art world.

Show community how amazing this parish is

Obj. 1 - Social media use - Kelly offered to teach how to "Share" news though Facebook and/or Instagram

Obj. 2 - Share our joyful news in the school newsletter - (This is already starting to happen)

Obj. 3 - Be more visibly welcoming on Center Street. - Parish engagement is working on this.

	b. Homework for next meeting - review all the goals discussed from the last few meetings and be ready to comment on strengths/weaknesses and which ones we plan to adopt as part of the ongoing Strategic Plan.
Pastoral Council Liaisons	• Other Committee Reports – Please review ahead of time to expedite the meeting. ○ B&G is getting grounds ready for a tree. Faith in Place grant has made it possible for sustainable gardening to be reintroduced to our church grounds. ○ Green team - Insulation being blown into attic space this week.
PC Accomplishments	Mary K put together a list of actions over the past year. 10 actions were accomplished and 5 more are in process. Good work, team!
Other business/comments/events	• St Catherine budget for retreat - \$500, St Sebs retreat budget is unknown. (St Catherine = \$197 spent last year for retreat) • Endowment applications encouraged now but the disbursement will be later this year (Not in June) • The pictures of the Pastoral Council members in the back of church need updating.
Pulpit Announcements	5/17 Kris 5/24 Kathy 5/31 Kelly 6/7 Colleen
	Our deliberations tonight helped to further our Parish Mission by spirit of gratitude for what we have accomplished this year ... creating new opportunities and ways in attracting new members ... giving glimmers of hope where the budget is concerned
Closing prayer	Our Father

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Bondhus

Next meeting - June 8 at 5:30 pm FKCC