



Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 16, 2026, at Parish Offices Conference Room and Zoom

Members Present:

PPC: Father Stan Mader, Mark Vogel-Chair, Kim Larson, Gary Golka, Chuck Walerius, Lisa Siebert

Trustees: Tom Konrardy, Beth Whittaker

Business Administrator: Rhonda Eurich

Recorder: Jean Konrardy

Documents distributed for this meeting:

- PPC Meeting Minutes, January 19, 2026
- Knights of Columbus Newsletter, February 2026
- Commissions Report Summaries:
 - Sarah Richards, Communications
 - Peg Schmaltz, Pastoral Care
- Commission Report Schedule
- St. Joseph Catholic Community Dashboard, January 2026
- Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Winter 2026 Advance Copy
- Vital Statistics, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, 2011-2025

Meeting called to order at 7:25 p.m.

Opening Prayer, Father Stan

The Gospel according to Matthew was read for the upcoming weekend. Members shared thoughts and interpretations on the content of the reading.

Prayer intentions were shared.

Preparations are underway for an upcoming event at the Basilica where several people will be baptized and confirmed, including two high school students and approximately six adults.

Approval of PPC Meeting Minutes

The January 19, 2026, PPC Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved with one change: Remove - Pastor Time, New Items, second bullet regarding handout on immigration and replace with, “we received directions from the archdiocese on how to respond to issues around immigration.”

ACTION: Rhonda Eurich will forward the final copy of the minutes to Communications for website publication. A copy with attachments will be permanently kept in the parish files.

Commission Summary Highlights (Full reports available as Minutes Attachment)

Sarah Richards, Communications

- Sarah’s project management chart was shared. The group commended her organization but highlighted her need for potential additional help.
- Her exceptional organization and in-house printing capabilities have improved the quality of graphics and printed materials.

Peg Schmaltz, Pastoral Care

- Peg's report detailed various activities, including grief support programs and collaboration with other parishes.
- Members noted a job well done.

Liaison feedback – none to share at this time.

Business Administration, Rhonda Eurich

Parish Budget Status

- The January 2026 Preliminary Dashboard was presented showing financial data, including a significant budget shortfall for the parish and school. It was explained that the school's financial issues were largely due to lower-than-expected enrollment in preschool and elementary school. The conversation ended with a discussion about declining student numbers at the school, with concerns raised about the reasons behind the decrease in enrollment.
 - Cost-cutting measures implemented include reduced maintenance staff, and band teacher sharing with Our Lady of the Lake
 - The school Gala was successful in bringing in more funds than last year’s event; the increase in funds will be included on next month’s dashboard.
 - Head of School (Deacon Bruce), Principal (Amy), School Finance Council, and Accounting (Rachel) meet on a regular basis to review school financial data and variances and adjust, as necessary. Rhonda (Business Admin), Deacon Bruce and Father Stan meet weekly to review the school finances.

The updating of the Operations Manual is now complete and was circulated to members February 5, 2026.

A Commission Report Schedule was developed for August 2026 through May 2027. It assigns the specific months commission staff will report to PPC.

An Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) audit is planned for January 18, 2027.

Eight Essentials, Worship and Sacraments

Eight Essential Review

The PPC is charged to assure the strategic planning for the Parish continues to meet the needs and fulfill the Eight Essential Aspects of a Parish. We will review each of the eight items over the next months. The plan is to take about 10 minutes or less to review what St Joseph Parish is doing well and challenges for each of the eight. Here are the items we will discuss, as able, at this PPC meeting:

Worship and Sacraments: This would include the Sunday Mass experience, and all the ways through its Sacramental life the parish community is nourished by its ritual celebration of forgiveness, commitment, healing, and communion. This enables its members to be nourished strengthened to do works of service. Parish members are to be encouraged to participate in the liturgies and take on ministries within the liturgy itself that are proper to their status and abilities as children of God.

Worship and Sacraments Essentials Review - February 16, 2026, PPC	
Doing Well	Challenges
Welcomed when enter Church; ushers/greeters do a nice job; prepared and beautiful environment is welcoming.	Expanding outreach to those who are not coming to Mass. Now 25% of registered parishioners attending.
Most of time; music incorporates current songs.	Mass time may be going long and starting late; as reported from parishioners.
Many ages are involved in Music Ministry, e.g., addition of Little Ringers; 80+ individuals in music.	Increase in number of people coming into Mass after start.
New Hymnal system/books are easier to follow along.	Hymnal board #s are a bit confusing. (Gloria and Mass part #). Mass number is not listed.
Beautiful Adoration Chapel and recent expansion of hours.	Need more volunteers in the Mass Experience, specifically greeters and ushers.
Live streaming of the Mass for those unable to attend.	Request for more traditional songs sung by choir.
More people are coming to confession.	Request for more traditional Mass congregational songs.

Worship and Sacraments Essentials Review - February 16, 2026, PPC	
Doing Well	Challenges
Hospital and Long-Term Care ministry is going well.	Reduce the frequency of Mass Part song changes.
Summer Catalog was successful and well received.	Sound System – low confidence in consistency of function.
Sound quality of music is better.	Choir parts are not heard well on floor.
Blessed to have two active Deacons.	More opportunities for fellowship after Mass.
Great homilies.	
Father's Mass reading explanations are appreciated.	
Seasonal decorations are well done.	
Baptismal presentation (holding up) of babies to the congregation.	
Bulletins – Quarterly Reports – Electronic Boards.	
Special liturgies – Mass for All Children, All Souls Day, Healing services.	
Safety and security of the campus and at Mass; there is a committed and qualified group.	

Archdiocese Data Report (See attachment)

Archdiocese data for all parishes, including trends in Mass attendance, sacraments, and population, were briefly reviewed. Statistics show a decline in sacraments and baptisms over the years, with COVID-19 having a significant impact. It was noted that immigrant communities are helping to maintain numbers, but overall attendance and participation are down.

There was interest in seeing data specific to our parish. The group discussed the possibility of conducting another Demographic Ministry Initiative (DMI), but concerns were expressed about the significant cost to the parish and there was only a 15% return the last time it was conducted. If done, there would need to be a plan to reach a wider range of parishioners.

National studies/research polls show a slight increase in religious participation among young people, suggesting a potential stabilization of declining faith trends.

ACTION: Consider scheduling a combined leadership half-day session to further analyze these trends and comparative data that will affect future planning.

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Hebda:

Only One Thing is Necessary, How Catholic Families Can Strive to be United in This Life and the Next

This 26-page preliminary draft document was released to parish priests in January and shared at this meeting as an informational item. It discusses the archdiocese priority “parents as primary educators for their children,” and the challenges of being a parent.

The archdiocese will print a parishioner copy sometime this summer and we will plan for the parish to read this document next fall, potentially in a small group format.

Pastor Time, Father Stan

Old Items – Updates

- Evangelization Council Status: Nothing new to report.
- The deanery continues to meet approximately eight times per year. There is an upcoming vote on a new deanery structure, which will realign parishes to better support their communities in the future.
- Father will continue to work on PPC membership recruitment.

New Items

- Holy Land Trip Highlights: This was a successful trip with events going as planned and with good weather. Updates on daily activities were sent to Sarah (Communications) to share with parishioners on the parish website.
- Parish Endowment: The parish is allowed to withdraw 4% per year; nothing has been withdrawn in recent years. Father asked the council for their consideration in taking out 4% this year to help reduce the deficit. Discussion: Consider major gifts that may be received yet this fiscal year. A major gift is split between the following funds: operating, agency, parish endowment, and school endowment. Capital Campaign funds will continue to come in but are already assigned to predetermined projects.

ACTION: Parish Council and Father Stan will continue to discuss and decide whether to take the 4% endowment distribution this year to help offset the parish deficit.

Ending Prayers

Adjourn 9:15 p.m.

Next PPC Meeting: Monday, March 16, 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.