



Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 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, February 16, 2026
- Commissions Report Summaries:
 - Julie Loscheider, Faith Formation (K-5th)
 - Kirstin Bularzik, Youth Ministry
 - Chris Parker, Adult Faith Formation
- St. Joseph Catholic Community Dashboard, February 2026
- Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Winter 2026 Advance Copy
- Discussion Questions for Pastoral Letter, Sections 1 and 2
- Knights of Columbus Newsletter, March 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Opening Prayer, Father Stan

Personal Lenten spiritual practices and prayer intentions were shared.

Approval of PPC Meeting Minutes

The February 16, 2026, PPC Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

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)

Julie Loscheider, Faith Formation (K-5th), Synod Team, St. Joseph Family Events

- Noted the success of family dance night with over 50 attendees.
- The challenges mentioned about staff not completing assigned tasks was questioned. Father Stan will be following up on that concern.

Kirstin Bularzik, Youth Ministry/Faith Formation Coordinator

- Praise for Kirstin's youth ministry growth, particularly starting programs for younger age groups (grades 3-5) and middle school; noted 18 boys attended first Boys Night Out at "The Basement" arcade venue.
- Planning is in process for another His Name Hallowed concert this summer at Holy Family High School in Victoria. Damascus Worship and Seph Schlueter will perform and Jeff Cavins will be giving the talk.
- Father Stan explained Kirstin's concern about space limitations for large energetic activities conflicting with Eucharistic Adoration in church; mentioned the potential use of capital campaign funds in future to address space needs.

Chris Parker, Adult Faith Formation Director, Synod Team, Cemetery Sexton, Sacraments

- Commended Friday Stations of the Cross with different voices speaking from perspectives of Pilate, Barabbas, Mary, Simon, Veronica, etc.
- It was noted only 30 people attended despite a quality program; hoping for better attendance at the Tenebrae service on March 27.
- The women's Welcome Retreat went well and had 17 participants, with some from other parishes, including Lady of the Lake.

PPC Commission Reporting Concluding Comments:

Strong programming is evident across formation and youth ministry areas. Space constraints for youth activities identified as an ongoing challenge requiring long-term planning.

Commission Liaison Feedback

- Lisa checked with Chris Parker; nothing needed at this time.
- Mark meet with Elizabeth Hoffmann regarding parish office duties; everything is fine.
- Father Stan shared Elizabeth's excitement about a music composer consultation.

Business Administration, Rhonda Eurich

Parish Budget Status:

- The February 2026 Preliminary Dashboard was presented. The parish exceeded budget by \$10,000; plate collections up; school still negative but improving.
- Everyone is thinking twice about purchases and watching budget closely.
- Revenue for the School Gala was a little above budget and costs were kept down.

- A new 7th grade student will start tomorrow, and three new preschoolers are coming in a few weeks, which will add \$500-800 to monthly revenue.
- Overall, the budget process this year is more collaborative and departmental engagement improved.
 - Father Stan and Rhonda meet with Deacon Bruce every week to discuss the school budget. The communication is going well.
 - Rhonda, Rachel (Accounting) and Tom (Trustee) are having hour-long parish budget meetings every Tuesday and using newly created spreadsheets to enhance the process.
 - Department staff are more actively involved this year with their budgets.
 - Both Rachel and Rhonda are much more confident with the process after a year of experience working with the budgets.

Father Stan and Rhonda attended an employment law seminar with six attorneys covering HR topics and AI risks in the workplace; they learned not to input confidential information into AI systems as it becomes part of the AI database.

Father Stan shared information about the Lord Renew Your Church capital campaign reducing priest pension parish assessment by \$9,750 due to improved funding.

Evangelization Council Status

Father Stan presented a draft job description for a new Evangelization Council to replace SET teams, focusing on moving the parish from maintenance to mission.

Father Stan brainstormed with staff and PPC members on how this council might function:

- primary role to help parish become Christ-like and make disciples
- move beyond small group study into action, plan events and connect with community projects
- shift from maintenance to mission, consumers to disciples, isolation to engagement
- connect vision to action
- would educate themselves, research, evaluate and support new ministry ideas
- identify gaps in reaching unchurched and disengaged
- collaborate regionally, as well as with parish members and staff
- meet with new parishioners and discuss involvement in the different ministries
- meet monthly; possibly move to quarterly
- determine leadership with a lay-driven approach; innovators who are well connected in the community

A budget for this council was discussed. There is an estimated \$1,500 budget similar to last year, unless sending new members to the School of Discipleship (\$125-150 per person); could potentially use pastor discretionary funds. Father Stan hopes to have a dozen members. Father currently has a list of 30+ identified candidates. It was suggested giving the council a significant

budget (\$5,000) to challenge them to find creative ways to engage people. Tom confirmed there is a formal process in place for any major expenditure which requires completion of a form describing the project, mission fit, and expected outcomes.

Father Stan has a meeting tomorrow with the archdiocese evangelization office staff for feedback on setting up a council. He will refine the proposal after tomorrow's meeting and start contacting candidates.

ACTION: Add topic to next month's PPC meeting agenda.

PPC Recruitment

There are four positions open with a mix of 2-year and 3-year terms. Approximately 35 names have been identified as Evangelization Council and Parish Pastoral Council candidates. The goal for PPC membership is to seek diversity in age, family status (school vs. non-school), skills, and parish tenure.

Father Stan is contacting candidates between now and mid-April, and will offer membership in PPC vs Evangelization Council, or other ministries. There will be a discernment evening, before June, open to invitees as well as anyone interested in serving on the Parish Pastoral Council.

Archbishop's Letter "Catholic Families" and Questions

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

Father Stan introduced the archbishop's letter that will be studied parish-wide in the fall. The letter discusses the archdiocese priority "parents as primary educators for their children," and addresses urgent cultural challenges facing families while offering practical paths to holiness. PPC members read sections 1 and 2 of the letter in preparation for discussing the following Session 1 Questions.

Session 1: Prologue, Sections 1-2

1. What about the witness of the married saints gives you hope in doing the ordinary tasks of daily life?
 - a. They were humble, simple, ordinary people doing small things.
2. Where do you see the strongest pressures on families today, and how do they shape daily decisions?
 - a. Secular culture makes living faith difficult, especially for kids wanting to fit in.
 - b. Pressure on young parents to have kids in every activity, starting sports at age 5, driven by societal expectations.

- c. Social media influence and kids feeling left out if not participating in same activities as peers.
 - d. Screen time influences; kids competing for parents' attention.
3. What does Jesus mean by calling us to the “narrow path,” and how can you more intentionally walk this path as a family?
- a. Emphasized importance of intentional choices like enrolling children in Catholic school, saying grace in public.
 - b. Family practicing prayers before meals and at bedtime.
 - c. Family daily reflection and asking kids, "what was the best part of your day."
4. Where do you personally feel invited to choose Christ more intentionally amid cultural expectations?
- a. Referenced "Holding Their Bread" book by Matthew Linn noting children are God's children first, not possessions or projects.
 - b. Discussed identified tools: Cana, baptism classes, outreach to extended family, grandparents group, welcoming and shepherding families and new parishioners, highlighting holy families in bulletin, daily Mass family-of-the-month for recognition.

ACTION: Members will read sections 3 thru 5 in preparation for the next PPC meeting in April and review the correlating discussion questions.

Father Stan has started going through this letter with staff as well.

Eight Essentials Review, Word

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 our parish is doing well and challenges for each of the eight. Here is the item we will discuss at this PPC meeting:

Word: Studies show that people more engaged with their faith have a greater understanding of scripture and accept it as the Word of God. Understanding and confidence in this area help people to pass our faith on to others. “Word” indicates several ways in which we do this, both formally and informally. While education and catechesis will be treated separately, it is a part of this. Ways of being strong in Word include efforts in Sunday homilies, scripture study and faith sharing groups.

Word Essentials Review - March 16, 2026, PPC	
Doing Well	Challenges
Explanation of Mass readings	Offering the Catechetical Institute at St. Joseph's as a satellite session; staff time constraints needed to prepare and teach a course limits offerings
Trip to the Holy Land and the blog communication to the parish	Small group training events with topics presented by Father or a Deacon
Tuesday morning after-Mass small group study of next Sunday's gospel	Reinforcing theology taught in school and Faith Formation during the Sunday Experience – booklets provided for families to discuss the Gospel on the way to and from Mass is one example of addressing this
Lenten and Advent books distributed to parishioners	How to guide someone wanting to read and understand Bible structure
Availability of scripture through apps, online resources and Formed.org	
New hymnals and Mass books allowing people to easily follow along with readings	
Faith Formation's increased focus on working with scripture and readings	
Faith Formation trivia events	
KCs Wednesday COR (Catholic men's group) scriptural studies	
Effort given to homilies that include personal stories and real-life examples are most impactful and easier to focus on	
Deacons well prepared now compared to training received 50 years ago	
Archdiocese offering training - Catechetical Institute opportunities	
Booklet provided that gives families questions to ask regarding the Gospel on the way to and from Sunday Mass	

Pastor Time, Father Stan

Old Items – Updates

- Deanery Realignment: The Presbyteral Council meets tomorrow and will vote on the archdiocese recommendation for a new deanery structure, which will realign regional parishes to better support their communities in the future. Restructuring aims to improve

cooperation so not every parish needs every program. Realignment groupings will be rural, suburban, and inner city. St. Joseph's is proposed to be part of the Western Rural section, which would likely include Waconia, Delano, St. Boniface, Watertown, Norwood Young America, Cologne, Belle Plaine, and Jordan.

New Items

- Encouraged attendance at Tenebrae service on March 27th
- Lenten highlights already covered in earlier discussion

Ending Prayers

Adjourn 9:15 p.m.

Next PPC Meeting: Monday, April 20, 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.