

COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parish

Date | time November 6, 2025 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

In Attendance

Fr. Gregory- Pastor
Mark Zamanian
Steve Daum
Pat Moynihan- Chair
Linda Wahlman
Joann Holaday
Kay Campbell- Scribe
Eric Scott
Olivia Platon

Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

Olivia offered the opening prayer to tonight's meeting.

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

Rite of entrance Masses: Has been scheduled for November 15th and 16th. This is where the parish officially welcomes those who are seeking baptism or full initiation into Catholicism. All are encouraged to attend. The Mass for the adults will be held on the 15th at 5:00pm and the children on the 16th at 10:30am. The Masses are being held separately this year because there are more children that will participate.

Wine & Cheese Event: The event will be held in the social hall on November 15th after the 5pm Mass. There has been a sign up in the church commons and it was announced at Mass. Fr. Gregory encourages council members to attend and be visible at events.

Community engagement: There will be young people visiting from Bellamy Methodist on November 22 at the 5pm Mass. They will be attending to see/learn/experience how our parish worships.

Thanksgiving Eve Mass: will take place on November 26th at 7pm. There will be no 8:00am Mass that day.

Bishop's Appeal: The parish receives a percentage of the appeal funds raised for a certain cause. This year, the funds will be used for the playground. The parish has received \$8,664.75 to date.

Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

The Lord Calls (paragraphs 75- 80) was read aloud.

Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

The focus this week was “blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” and “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

The council discussed Pope Francis’s message with Fr. Gregory providing insights where needed.

Next month, reading will start with paragraph 81.

Refreshments:

Refreshments were provided by Karl.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes by Mark and seconded by Eric. The committee approved the minutes without dissent but included one correction. A committee member’s last name contained a typo in the spelling.

Reports and Updates

Old Business

- Kitchen Committee: Written notes of the St. Theres Kitchen Ministry was distributed to council members. The Kitchen Ministry will consist of 5 members, including a representative from the Bingo committee, the Events Committee, the Knights of Columbus, the Theresians and a member of the Pastoral Council or parishioner. See the written notes for additional information. The topic will be subject to additional discussion in next month’s meeting.
- Retreat for the Pastoral Council: Pat contacted St. Clare’s in Hampton regarding available Saturday dates for the Pastoral Council retreat. The two options were January 3rd, 2026, or May 16th, 2026. Fr. Gregory made the executive decision to have the retreat on May 16th. Deacon Dave will conduct the retreat, and the hours will be 9am-3pm. The council was asked to identify a theme and will need to develop guidelines to have a more successful experience.
- All Saint’s Day Mass: The Mass included a wedding this year. Fr. Gregory noted that the best man is an Events and Programs Manager (paid position) at a Catholic Church in Maryland. The best man made it a point to share how impressed he was with our social hall and kitchen, citing how clean and organized our facilities are. Kudos to Rosa and those who assist in the kitchen for doing an excellent job.

New Business

- Daffodil Festival: This will be our third year of participating in the Daffodil festival. The organizers of the festival reached out to Pat about our participating this year, the need to complete the paperwork and organize a booth. Pat encouraged the committee to think about ideas that would make our booth stand out. The parish still has a supply of car magnets remaining from last year that can be distributed. Mark suggested advertising in the Gazette. Fr. Gregory suggested that organizing our booth would be a form of ministry. Eric volunteered to chair the Daffodil Festival committee. The festival is scheduled for the last weekend in March.
- Council leadership: Fr. Gregory discussed the need for thoughtful consideration and to try to discern from the Holy Spirit who would best fill council positions. The council was reminded of the Bible passage in Mark 10: 45 about the key to serving. The council prayed and sung “The Servant Song”

together prior to nominating individuals to the leadership roles. Each nominated person took a few moments to share what they would bring to the council if chosen.

- Chair: Pat, Mark and Eric were nominated- the council voted to Pat to continue as chair.
 - Vice Chair: JoAnn and Mark were nominated: the council voted for JoAnn to fill the position.
 - Scribe: Linda and Kay were nominated: the council voted for Kay to continue as scribe.
- Review of Policies for Pastoral Councils: The discussion was held until next month as the election of Council Officers was held in this meeting and took up the available time.

Announcements

The council was informed that Karen is on leave of absence from the council due to her son's illness, but she does not want to resign from her place on the council. She will participate when able and contribute when possible.

Thanks to Karl for refreshments and to Olivia for the opening and closing prayers. Thanks to the ladies, in general, for aiding in the cleanup.

Next Meeting

December 9, 2025, at 7pm

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Olivia.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.