

# COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parrish

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*Date | time* October 21, 2025 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

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## In Attendance

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Fr. Gregory- Pastor  
Mark Zamanian  
Steve Baum  
Pat Moynihan- Chair  
Linda Wahlman  
Karen Melendez  
Kay Campbell- Scribe  
Sarah Linsmeyer

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## Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

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Pat offered the opening prayer.

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## Pastor's Comments

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Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

Wine & Cheese Event: Fr. Gregory reminded us of the wine and cheese event held in social hall scheduled for November 15. It is usually a success and well attended.

The first topic addressed was the "Green Mass" at Beaverdam Park on 9/23/25. Feedback from the council was very positive and a suggestion was made to schedule another Green Mass in the Spring with a backup rain date. Turnout for the Mass was greater than anticipated, with approximately 40 parishioners present. Karen noted that people stopped to see what was happening with interest. Mark described the experience as "invigorating".

John Acquaviva: The presentation to the parish went very well and the feedback was positive. Sarah, who has children engaged in sports, found the book helpful and insightful.

Parish Picnic/Playground Opening: The picnic was a great success, and the playground is a huge hit. Mark has been observing activity and reports that families are enjoying the play equipment. Kudos were voiced for JoAnn Holaday for all her hard work spearheading the playground committee. Enthusiasm for additions to the playground equipment was voiced and the council mentioned the speed in which this project came together.

Fr. Gregory reminded the committee of the All-Saints Day and All Souls Day masses on 11/1/25 and 11/2/25. In addition to the regular 5:00pm Saturday Mass, there will be another Mass on All Saints Day at 1:00pm. He noted that this year's All Saints Day Mass will also have a wedding. The couple invites parishioners to the

social hall after for refreshments. The All Souls Day Mass will have the remembrances for our beloved deceased family members of the parish, especially those we lost this year.

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### Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

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The Lord Calls (paragraphs 70- 74) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

The focus this week was “being poor of heart: this is holiness.”

Pope Francis discussed the human tendency to prioritize the wrong things and with a spirit contrary to what Jesus intended. The reading relates the need to be humble, to approach human flaws in others with meekness and to put our dependence on our relationship with God.

Mark shared some personal insights about this in regard to his family relocated from Massachusetts to start a new lifestyle and how it required a trust in God that this was a good move for his family. Mark shared a sense of freedom in shedding “stuff” that was unnecessary and how it promoted focus on what is important.

Mark remarked that part of the troubled times we are enduring results from people not listening to each other. As a society, we forget who we are. Pope Francis stressed the need to listen to others and the need for attentive dialogue.

Next month, reading will start with paragraph 75.

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### Refreshments:

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Refreshments were provided by Sarah.

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### Approval of the Minutes

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A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes by Mark and seconded by Steve. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

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### Reports and Updates

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#### Old Business

- Damon’s Fund-Raising Report: Members present at the fund raiser report that the event was very successful, raising \$1,983.00 for the playground. There was a strong turnout from the parish. Sally Mears, of Damon’s, was described as helpful, friendly and supportive of the endeavor. The report included that there was a lot of generosity evident. Someone donated bike gear for raffle, Sally donated proceeds from the BBQ dinner plate sales, and there were also the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle. There were 3 or 4 bands present that provided music for the afternoon.
- Retreat for the Parish Council: A Saturday day retreat at St. Claire’s in Hampton. Council Members that attended the retreat last year spoke highly of their experience. The members were enthusiastic about their experience with Deacon Dave. Pat suggested picking a few possible dates and having a theme for the retreat. Pat volunteered to call St. Claire’s to inquire about availability. Pat will respond to the group with an email and the focus will be discussed further in next month’s meeting.

#### New Business

- Kitchen Cleaning: (Karen) Discussed an email from Beverly, who is planning a meeting on 10/22/25 with the different ministries within the parish about sharing the kitchen. Multiple issues have been identified, and the meeting is intended for brainstorming. The meeting is scheduled for 1pm. Beverly is

chair of the Events Committee. Steve identified that the booster on the hot water heater is an issue and that the dishwasher is on its last legs. Karen brought up the issue of “ownership” of resources. Mark suggested the parish would benefit from collective purchasing. Linda observed that someone should be designated to manage- to help streamline the process. Sarah L. professional work is involved in inventory control and would be an excellent candidate for that task. Mark also suggested a check list idea that could be considered.

- Rosary Walk: (Pat) Pat spoke at all Masses about the Rosary Walk and has 12 volunteers to be on the committee for the rosary walk. A meeting has not been announced yet, it will be pending additional research on rosary walks and recommendations. Pat spoke with Dave DeSpirto, who had a good idea. He suggested that the rosary walk should either start or end at the statue of the Virgin Mary. The introduction of an arbor at the fence line was also suggested. The conversation also included the need to keep ADA considerations in mind when making decisions about the rosary walk. The Diocese has been called; a return call is pending.
- Review of Policies for Pastoral Councils: Each member of the council was provided with a copy to review, and the policy booklet will be reviewed in more detail at the next meeting. Members were told to view them as guidelines.
- Youth Bake Sale: (Sarah L.) A bake sale will be held under the Portico after Masses next weekend to benefit the Shoe box program. Members were encouraged to purchase items from the bake sale and if available, to bring shoe boxes from home to donate. The shoe boxes are used in packaging Christmas gifts.

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## Announcements

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

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## Next Meeting

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November 6, 2025, at 7pm

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## Closing Prayer

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The closing prayer was offered by Pat.

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## Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.