

# COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parrish

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*Date | time* February 10, 2026 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

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## In Attendance

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Fr. Gregory- Pastor  
Steve Daum  
Pat Moynihan- Chair  
Linda Wahlman  
Olivia Platon  
Kay Campbell- Scribe  
Sarah Linsmeyer  
Karl Ittner  
JoAnn Holaday  
Eric Scott

## Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

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Fr. Gregory offered the opening prayer for tonight's meeting. Following that the council recited the Vision statement together.

## Pastor's Comments

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Fr. Gregory addressed the following topics in this meeting.

The first topic addressed was the Week of Christian Unity. JoAnn attended the service on Thursday and shared how much she enjoyed the combined choir, that they sounded wonderful. Her feedback to the council was positive and uplifting.

Fr. Gregory addressed growth in the parish. He shared that there are 6 children and 2 adults who will receive the sacrament of Baptism into the faith. There are also 4 other adults that will be joining the faith at the Easter Vigil. This is a notable increase from prior years.

The Diocesan Youth Convention has 4 young people from our parish attending. There was discussion about the adults who have stepped up to chaperone the group.

## Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

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The Lord calls (paragraphs 89- 92) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

The focus this week was continued discussion of the Beatitudes: Looking for Jesus in each person.

Discussion focused on what it means to live the beatitudes today. One of the topics this discussion brought up was attention to people who engage in panhandling. Members were asked what their feelings were. Eric noted

that he was taught that it was not about what they did with any money given, the priority was the fact that you shared your abundance. Kay mentioned that individual assessment is appropriate and how/what to give matters. Discernment of whether money donations are appropriate and when alternatives would be appropriate as well. An example of this, providing a meal instead of cash. The discussion also focused on when people live their Catholic faith, there will be times when that choice may generate difficulties and issues. Next month, reading will start with reading "The Great Criterion".

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### Refreshments:

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Refreshments were provided by Pat.

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### Approval of the Minutes

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A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes. JoAnn noted that her name was omitted from the list of members attending the January meeting. This was corrected and the minutes were approved.

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### Reports and Updates

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#### Old Business

- Daffodil Festival: Eric reported that the parish has both a booth and a float for the parade entered for the festival. The council discussed how the festival was on Palm Sunday this year and how Palm Sunday could play in our planning for the float. The idea of waving palms was discussed. The theme of this year's festival is "Anchored in tradition". Logistically, Eric noted that a trailer needs to be secured to be the float. A scripted message to the Parish at Mass was suggested so that all 3 Masses would get the same information. A member of the Parish Council will make the announcement at the end of Mass. The council acknowledged also that some funds will be needed for this. Eric will have a sign-up sheet in the foyer for volunteers to sign up. Eric believes that the same spot as last year has been reserved for the booth. The need to do any ordering soon was noted. Fr. Gregory will order materials, to include extra bulletins that can be passed out at the festival. How to present all the groups and things the parish does was discussed, Pat will contact Denise regarding the bulletins. The possibility of having a sandwich board outside of the booth was also suggested.
- The subject of meeting location for the Parish Council Meeting was also addressed. Tonight's trial effort at having the council meeting at the ALC center was successful and the council affirmed that future meetings would be held at the ALC.
- Pat addressed the subject of council snacks. Once again, the refreshments provided surpassed expectation. The issue is that when other members of the council have their assigned turns, undue burden and cost is implied. Pat reminded everyone that the refreshments should be fairly basic- chips, fruit, nuts, etc. Please keep snacks simple.

#### New Business

- Craft Sale/Haiti Ministry: Pat reported that there continues to be a struggle to get funds through to Haiti, but efforts continue. Pat also shared that Walter still has remaining stock of art and that another sale may be indicated. This led to the conversation about the bricks which are going back to committee. No substantial information was provided tonight.
- Sarah asked about this year's Litnic season, asking if there would be one prior to Fr. Gregory's retirement and departure from the parish. There was some discussion about the idea with no settled decision on Sarah's question. Fr. Gregory's departure is in June and the Litnic season doesn't commence until later in the summer.
- Vision Statement: The yearly review of the Vision Statement was completed. Conversation focused on the purpose of the statement. When council members make decisions, does the decision align with the Vision Statement? Each part of the Vision Statement was examined. The committee did reflect that the first and last statements were powerful statements of what we believe, while the center statements were descriptive of how we accomplish our intention. No changes were made to the Vision Statement.
- Transitions: The committee further discussed Fr. Gregory's pending retirement and the function of the parish council. Members were asking how it would be operationalized. Pat noted that providing the Vision Statement and a couple of recent council minutes would be appropriate for a transition folder. Multiple ideas and thoughts were shared. Fr. Gregory was asked if he found it helpful when he came to the Parish. Fr. Gregory indicated that transition folders do not need to be complicated.
- New Pregnancy Center: Eric noted that the Knights of Columbus was informed of a new pregnancy center in the Northern Neck, located in Warsaw. The Grand Knight will be meeting with them on Thursday. There will be discussion on what their needs are. There will be 5 Knight of Columbus councils that will be working together to provide support. Eric will get additional feedback from the council and report next month to the Parish Council. This topic is placed on the agenda for next month.

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## Announcements

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Thanks to Pat for refreshments and to Fr. Gregory for the opening and closing prayers. Thanks to everyone, in general, who aided in the cleanup.

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## Next Meeting

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March 10, 2026, at 7pm at the Adult Learning Center.

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## Closing Prayer

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The closing prayer was offered by Fr. Gregory.

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## Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.