

COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parrish

Date | time January 13, 2026 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

In Attendance

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

Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

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

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

The first topic addressed was the Christmas Program. This year's presentation included an element of humor and was very enjoyable. A slightly different take from prior programs. The only feedback for future improvement was related to acoustics. At times, the youth were difficult to hear if they did not have a microphone.

Fr. Gregory noted that the council would be addressing the Vision statement at the next council meeting. He recommended giving the Vision statement some thoughtful consideration and to be prepared to discuss and recommend modifications.

The recent AED training resulted in several additional parishioners being trained in the use of the AED in the event of an emergency. Fr. Gregory voiced appreciation for the trainers.

Fr. Gregory informed the council that Fr. Co is the Head of the Deanery and has asked Fr. Gregory to host a Deanery meeting on February 3rd here at St. Therese. Only priests will be participating in the meeting, but, the Theresians will assist in providing refreshments.

The subject of meeting location for the Parish Council Meeting was also addressed. Fr. Gregory inquired whether the meeting should be in the Adult Learning Center (ALC) in the future. The committee discussed the

idea. Linda asked if the lighting would be sufficient and the consensus was that the lighting and parking arrangements would be fine.

Fr. Gregory introduced an idea that he is calling "Kingdom Builders". His idea consists of 20 households who would volunteer to participate. Fr. Gregory plans to put a sign-up sheet in the foyer and will introduce the idea at Mass to the congregation. The plan is that each participating household will be given \$100.00. With that money, they are challenged to do something with the money that promotes ministry, the "building of the kingdom". It allows a 90-day window and creativity is encouraged. The participating households would meet around Easter to share their outcomes. So far, 6 households have signed up to participate.

Lastly, Fr. Gregory shared news that no one expected. He announced his intention to retire on June 30th. The office staff were made aware this morning. Fr. Gregory related that he has served as a parish pastor for 40 years and is ready for a new chapter in his ministry. He voiced his intention to make the announcement to the congregation on Saturday and Sunday. He also noted that he would periodically pop in when the new Pastor needs a stand in for Mass and that he plans to continue his work, but, in a new capacity.

Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exultate

The Lord calls (paragraphs 88- 91) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

The focus this week was "Blessed are the Peacemakers."

Pope Francis asked, "What makes for peace?" Jesus prioritized unity and was clear that working for peace is not easy.

Matthew, in Chapter 18, called for people to work out their differences and in moments of tension, to take a moment to stop and pray before responding. Like the adage, "If you can't say something nice, then perhaps, you shouldn't say it." Jesus called for his followers to be artisans of peace.

The practice of intentional hearing was discussed. The practice of listening objectively, asking yourself, is the speaker looking to be heard, helped or hugged? This was shared with the council as a parenting practice but is also identified as good practice for when you are interacting with others.

Next month, reading will start with paragraph 92.

Refreshments:

Refreshments were provided by Linda.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes. A correction was made re: the kitchen ministry. Karen attended the meeting and Mark participated via email. Mark shared that the ministry will be available in the Spring. Once clarified, the motion to accept the minutes were put forward by Steve and seconded by Mark. The committee then approved without dissent.

Reports and Updates

Old Business

- Daffodil Festival: The booth for the festival has been secured, and we were able to have the same booth as last year, as we hoped. Eric had some suggestions for the council to consider, a) a vertical banner for

the church as part of the booth advertising and b) finger rosaries to distribute. He also suggested a sign up roster for anyone who would like to be contacted regarding future events and occasions.

- Parade Float, Daffodil Festival, part 2: Eric suggested signing up for a float in the parade. He noted that there is a \$10.00 entry fee and because the number of floats are limited, if we are to sign up, then the registration needs to be completed as soon as possible. The council was informed that currently, the youth group is not interested in a float. The need for a trailer and daffodils was discussed as well as questions about the effort to invest the time, effort and resources into a float. The parade is scheduled for a Saturday morning.
- The current phone tree was distributed among Parish council members.

New Business

- Craft Sale/Haiti Ministry: The artwork sale was a success. The Haiti committee raised \$1400.00 from Haiti art sales. There was a modest profit gained. There are a few remaining art pieces available. Pat will ask Walter to give information on the remaining art.
- Brick Sales: The council was informed that additional bricks needed to be sold. The council members discussed logistics, ie: where the information was posted in the commons, how often it is brought to the attention of the parish and how to encourage sales. Linda addressed additional technical challenges in completing sales and concerns re: scammers. The council asked whether sales could be made through the church and agreed that announcements to the parish should happen more often. Mark asked how many more bricks needed to be sold to meet current goals? Pat responded that she would follow up.
- Week of Christian Unity: Scheduled for Monday, 1/19/26 through Saturday, 1/24/26. Services will be at different churches each day, service time 12:15pm- 12:45pm. An announcement is in the bulletin this week. Members of the Parish Council should plan to attend the evening service on 1/22/26 at 7:00pm at Newington Baptist Church. Members were reminded to wear their name tags.

Announcements

Thanks to Linda for refreshments and to Steve for the opening and closing prayers. Thanks to everyone, in general, who aided in the cleanup.

Next Meeting

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

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Steve.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.