

COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parrish

Date | time June 09, 2026 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

In Attendance

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

Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

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

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Gregory addressed the following topics in this meeting.

Fr. Gregory started his comments by noting that this was his last parish council meeting, following 31 years of ministry as a pastor and 36 years as a priest. He noted that it was gratifying that the council here at St. Therese is fully engaged and committed to our community.

Fr. Gregory shared that he had learned that the new pastor coming loves Persimmons, as Olivia has Persimmon trees. Olivia shared that she had talked with Fr. George, who informed her that the new pastor prefers to be called Fr. Jun. Joann shared that she will be in Virginia Beach and may have an opportunity to introduce herself prior to Fr. Jun's arrival here. Fr. Gregory shared that Fr. Jun did visit the parish last week and the move is expected for June 30th. Fr. Gregory will be moving out in the morning, and Fr. Jun will be moving in after lunch.

Fr. Gregory also shared that he had been interviewed by the Catholic Virginian, and that the Catholic Virginian generally does interview priests when they retire.

Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exultate

The Lord calls (paragraphs 109- 114) was read aloud. The paragraphs were read aloud and following each paragraph, council members were encouraged to share their thoughts about the text. The theme this week was

about the necessity of putting into the values and beliefs of Christianity into practice. Pope Francis noted that there are 5 great expressions of love or God and neighbor and that it is a framework built on the Beatitudes and the writings of Matthew. Fr. Gregory noted that he hoped the council members would continue to read *Gaudete et Exsultate* independently after his departure.

Refreshments:

Refreshments were provided by Steve.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes by Mark and Steve.

Reports and Updates

Old Business

- **Playground Committee:** Joann reported that Jim Raposa has completed the landscaping on the playground. The end cost was \$1,307.00 and a lot less than the cost was expected to be. The Knights of Columbus have been generous in assisting in seed planting and watering, special shout out to Tim Brown and George Stewart. Committee members have been working with VPS to finalize a quote for several pieces of equipment. VPS was able to redesign the layout to incorporate a whizzy dizzy, balance beam, three step pods and monkey bars. The total cost is \$9,991, which includes equipment, freight, installation and a \$200.00 discount. That leaves a remaining balance of \$8,597.11. Fr. Gregory determined that \$4,500.00 of that remaining balance would be applied to the rosary walk. Pat asked about the turnaround time and Joann noted it would be 12- 14 weeks from time of receipt of the check.
- **Rosary Walk Committee:** Pat reported that the concrete has been poured, the beads have been painted, and that TSP has put down grass seed. Hogg Funeral Home staff have installed concrete pads for the benches, and the signs have been ordered. Deb Shumake has a plan for landscaping. Deb plans to use native plants, low maintenance along with 1 small tree. Fr. Gregory has agreed to bless the rosary walk on 6/28/26 following the 10:30am Mass. TSP will install the signs; coordination efforts are occurring to make sure it involves one trip only. Steve has agreed to treat the posts prior to installation to prevent rot from setting in. Then 2- 3 weeks later, TSP will come back to touch up the beads and seal the walk. Mark inquired about the type of sealer that will be used, voicing concern about the potential for slipping/falls. Fr. Gregory reported that Fr. Bob was enthusiastic about the rosary walk and the committee was informed that the old Baptismal font may be repurposed and be included in the design. Pat talked to Rick Harper about the additional benches that he has made, and the decision was made that one bench would be given to the rosary walk and one bench would be given to the playground. Mark shared that the location to store one bench needs to be identified, Pat plans on discussing with Gary.

New Business

- **Pastoral Council Retreat:** The council members that attended the pastoral council retreat provided feedback. Deacon Dave did not fail to impress and members that attended shared one or two thoughts about their experience. Deacon Dave did a great job in providing the group different things to consider during the transition to having a new parish priest. The outcome of the retreat is that Deacon Dave will be coming to St. Therese on 6/14/26 and 6/15/26 to address the parish community. The two sessions will

start at 7pm and conclude at 8:30pm. On Monday, following the 2nd session, there will be a reception in the social hall. The council members concurred that this would be a positive approach to address parish anxieties during the transition. Council members were asked to volunteer with setting up/down and with providing refreshments. A suggestion was also made to reach out to the Catholic Virginian, that this may be worth a write up for the paper.

- i. Refreshments will be covered by Pat, Kay, Olivia, Mark and JoAnn.
 - ii. Set up/Breakdown will be covered by Steve and Karl.
 - iii. Announcements: will be made this coming Sunday at Mass. Pat will make an announcement on Saturday at 5:00pm Mass, Karl will address the Sunday morning 8:00am Mass and Kay will cover the 10:30am Mass.
- Lastly, as a parting gift and acknowledgement/thank you to Fr. Gregory and all that he has done for our parish community, a parting gift was presented. Pat presented him with a spiritual bouquet. In it, the council members each took a month and notated things they would do during that month to honor his time spent at St. Therese. Fr. Gregory was touched by the gesture and voiced his thanks. Fr. Gregory identified “The Vagabond Boys” as his preferred charity for young people, when asked. He went on to explain the charity, which brings Christ to troubled street teens/youth.

Next Meeting

Possibly September 08, 2026, at 7pm at the Adult Learning Center. This will be at the discretion of our new pastor.

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Joann.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.