

Blessed Sacrament

A Christ-Centered Catholic Community

Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, March 16, 2026, 6pm in Room 2

*We, Blessed Sacrament Parish, are a Christ-centered community;
Committed to worship the Father; Committed to respond to the Spirit's gifts;
Committed to loving service to all God's people.*

1. Opening Prayer – Molly Linehan Belcher

In light of yesterday's Gospel in which a man was born blind and remained that way until he experienced Jesus, we pray that we can be open to experiencing Jesus this Lent and throughout our lives. As we gather a parish council, we are each here because in one way or another we have each encountered Christ. But we are also humbly aware that we do not yet see in full. While aware of spiritual blindness, may we trust God moving forward in dialogue, worship, and mission. Amen.

2. Acceptance of February Meeting minutes - no corrections or issues noted

3. KUDOS:

KUDOS to those parishioners who serve as presenters, musicians and cantors for Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent.

KUDOS for Wayne Miller, for the time and energy he has devoted to the Men's Bible study.

KUDOS to the John, Rachael, Thatcher, and Scarlett Crane, Terry and Mathias, and Mary Odin for making the lenten pretzel party a success.

KUDOS to the Parish Garden Committee. Good turnout and progress/plans moving forward. Different group of parishioners in the meeting than other groups.

KUDOS to Natalie and office staff to help coordinate the giving bags.

4. New/Carryover Topics:

- Physical security of the building during Masses - Dan McLaughlin and Ryan Walter
Ryan got in touch with Natalie's Diocesan contact regarding building security with related email; Concealed Carry a very important point - firearms not allowed in schools and places of worship unless parishioner/attendee is an active duty officer of the law. Looking to work with a few parishioners and get a few contacts with some experience. One of the suggestions could contact local police department. Parishioner works in the police department.
- Ministry to Spanish speaking parishioners – Deacon Tony
Did a Stations of the Cross in Spanish recently. Will start weekly 10pm masses on Thursday in Spanish. Start in the daily mass chapel (can seat 18). Local Spanish-speaking community indicated Blessed Sacrament is a very central location for many of them. Father Szabo will lead mass.
- Ministry to/with young families in our parish (see attached for list of suggestions) – Terry Mathias and Rachael Crane
Recommend setting up a committee to pursue some of the items and coordinate with office staff to hold events; Moms Group is involved; looking for potential to open up to other parishes and groups depending on the event; suggestion to potentially hold one item/event per quarter starting out. Rachael Crane will report back in April on progress. Question on what could be opened up to

families of other parishes. Good discussion for potential methods of starting the “meal trains” or ministry to sick, children, etc.. Suggestion for the possibility of a game night (among other items) as other churches have had success.

- Vacation Bible Experience- Terry Mathias
Last week of July (Sunday 7/19 through Thursday 7/23). Theresa O’Leary is putting together a curriculum. “Growing in Grace” is a working title to focus on the Sacraments of Initiation. Similar schedule to last year.
- Accepting nominations to Pastoral Council – Terry Mathias
 - a. Nominations March/April; mid-April is nomination deadline (was previously incorrect in bulletin); will have up to about 3 positions available for new members.
 - b. Meeting with potential candidates in April
 - c. Potential candidates visit Pastoral council meeting in May
 - d. After discernment period is complete, new members officially join in June

5. General Parishioner Concerns

Root and Branch next Monday, March 23rd, at Sacred Heart at 7pm with tour
Parishioners had issues in the past with the large cross draped in front of the ambo, making it difficult for parishioners to see Father Paul when preaching; could put the cross further back behind the priest’s chair.

6. Parish Council Member Concerns

Sometimes the microphone is cutting in and out during mass. May be related to all the bluetooth/cellphones active during mass; worse during large congregations.
OCIA candidates (Jackie, Erin, Jessica) not as exposed to other parishioners during mass as was done in the past. Suggest reaching out and congratulating them.

7. Staff Concerns

Father sees things going in a general good direction. Seeing children increasingly involved in mass and other events really helps them to feel like they “own” a part of it.
Mary added to that regarding the participation of the children and older kids leading the younger kids and helping them, which is a sign of leadership by Father Paul.

8. Next Meeting – April 13 at 6:00 PM in Room 2

9. April Prayer – John Priestley
May Prayer - David Lewia

10. Closing Prayer – Molly Linehan Belcher

As we close this evening we pray for our parish, particularly for Fr. Paul, the staff, our deacons and others in ministry as they fulfill what is most needed for our community. Give them discerning hearts as they consider the challenges of the coming month. May the close of Lent be meaningful and may our celebration of the Resurrection be a source of renewal. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Attendance: Father Paul, Terry Mathias, Deacon Tony O’Leary, Molly Linehan-Belcher, Jamie Knox, Ryan Walter, David Brown, John Priestley, David Lewia, Rachel Crane, Mary Odin, Jonathan Perry, Dan McLaughlin, David Lewia, Walter