

Blessed Sacrament

A Christ-Centered Catholic Community

Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 10, 2025; 6pm in the 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.*

Opening Prayer – Rick Brennan; read by Deacon Tony O’Leary

Slow Down

In the midst of my confusion
In the time of desperate need
When I am thinking not too clearly
A gentle voice does intercede

Slow down, slow down, be still
Be still and wait, on the Spirit of the Lord
Slow down and hear His voice
And know that He is God

In the time of tribulation
When I'm feeling so unsure
When things are pressing in about me
Comes a gentle voice so still, so pure

Slow down, slow down, be still, my child
Be still and wait, on the Spirit of the Lord
Slow down and hear His voice
And know that He is God
And know that He is God

1. Minutes – Approval; no amendments
2. KUDOS
 - a. Kudos to the Saturday morning Men's Bible Study group. They stayed after one of their recent gatherings for the Rite of Committal an individual who had her remains inured in the columbarium and no family or friends were present.
 - b. Kudos to deacon Tony for hosting Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of the month
 - c. Kudos to quilt makers for the prayer quilts
 - d. Kudos to coffee and cookies; continues to work well

- e. Kudos to children taking on responsibilities (for example - taking up hymnals); Smithberger children playing shakers during Mass parts
- f. Kudos to people donating to the maintenance of the parish buildings (i.e. cover for breaker box, painting, etc.)
- g. Kudos to Teresa for jumping into Director of Religious Education and Vacation Bible School
- h. Kudos to the cantors, especially when they jump in as needed
- i. Kudos to the congregation for participating in the Bishop's Evangelization Initiative ballot
- j. Kudos to John Ellison for being our pianist for so many years of service to Blessed Sacrament parish; requesting prayer for his health

2. New/Carryover Topics:

- a. **Small Group Ministry Update** - a couple groups starting up; Ruth leading one and Ted Streit leading another; session on the East End soon; would like to potentially start a third; goal is for them to self-sustaining
- b. **Pictorial Directory Update** - "soon and very soon" ; at the press this week; hoping to be in by end of February
- c. **Garden Project Update** - had a great meeting after Sunday 11:30 mass; good turnout; options addressing the rainwater retention issue; looked at three kinds of raised beds (pine, cedar, metal); looked at slowly rolling it out; discussed several options for types of plants and how to distribute (i.e. Heart and Hand, church community, etc.); great work by Monica Patton
- d. **Vacation Bible School Sun. July 20 – Thur. July 24, 2025 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm** – looking to get additional marketing out there to draw the community in; curriculum being developed by Teresa.
 - i. Subcommittee meeting after pastoral council meeting chaired by Chip Council - Terry filling in for Chip's absence
- e. **Bishop Brennan's Evangelization Initiative** - 205 electronic ballots; 14 paper ballots sent in (219 total)
- f. **Pastoral Council Nominating Committee** - Terry, Rick, Jonathan will meet in coming weeks; would like three nominees with potentially one or two women; pray about potential nominees; recruit parish members that would seem like a great addition; see committee schedule below

Current Pastoral Council Members

<u>Last Year</u>	<u>Next to last year</u>	<u>Second Year</u>	<u>First Year</u>
Chip Council	David Lewia	Molly Linehan-Belcher	Jonathan Perry
Katie Smithberger		Terry Mathias	Dan McLaughlin
Charlie Wilson			Rick Brennan

Jonathan Perry has agreed to take on the role of secretary starting in June

NEXT STEPS:

- January: Appoint Nominating Committee: Terry Mathias, Rick Brennan, Jonathan Perry
- February: Nominating Committee meeting
- March 31: Deadline for nominations
- April: Orientation meeting with potential new members
- May: Potential new members attend council meeting
- June: New members welcomed to pastoral council

- g. **John Shawler Book Study during Lent** - John Shawler will facilitate, may have another facilitator; Father has started advertising; books are ready to go.

- h. **Discussion Panel on Saturday, March 8 at 3:00 pm** - A response from the Leadership Conference of women religious to these times - article for discussion to be included in the bulletin regarding current events/political environment; Parish Hall
 - i. **Corpus Christi Parish Feast Day** – Church Dinner on June 21 or June 22 - additional meal for parish; plan for evening of Saturday, June 21; potential cookout
3. **Council Member Concerns** (please notify Terry Mathias ahead of time) - none
 4. **General Parishioner Concerns** - older parishioners concerned about the doors being locked during the week after reading the recent bulletin; Ring doorbell on the South entrance but have to walk around from the North entrance; doors will be open during weekday mass and any events; needs communication/clarification to parishioners when doors are open
Possible that handicap buttons may be inactivated - ensure is activated if ever turned it off
 5. **Staff Concerns** -
 - a. **Mary**: hosting Diocesan Music Reading Session evening of Tuesday, March 25th; lead by David Anderson
James Sparks resigned from Sacred Heart a few months after replacing Mark Haas.
Surrounding music directors will be pitching in to help cover music at Sacred Heart on Sunday, March 9th. Pray for Sacred Heart.
 - b. **Father** - parish heading in a great direction; survey participation is just one great example
 6. **Next Meeting** – March 10 at 6:00 PM in Room 2 (Chip Council will serve as facilitator)
 7. **March Prayer** - Katie Smithberger
 8. **Closing Prayer** -

My Soul In Stillness Waits

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
Your radiance shines in all who look to you,
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. (Refrain)

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. (Refrain)

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,
And in your advent draw us all to you,
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising. (Refrain)

O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain,
Open to us the pathway of your peace. (Refrain)

Attendance

Father Paul Wharton

Deacon Tony O'Leary

Mary Odin

Katie Smithberger

David Lewia

Terry Mathias

Dan McLaughlin

Jonathan Perry

Molly Linehan-Belcher