

ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH

Pastoral Council Minutes

February 11, 2026

Present: Fr Ben Schrantz. DC John Pedrotti, Todd Chase, Jennifer Kline, Peggy Ford, Cece Kurpita, Darlene St. John, Sharon App, Kathy Fisselbrand, Maureen Murphy, Angie Banes, Liz Case & Kristin Jankowski

OPENING PRAYER--- Kathy led us in a prayer from Pope Leo XIV in his message for the 34th World Day of the Sick.

MINUTES FROM OUR DECEMBER MEETING—The minutes of the December meeting were approved as presented.

SUGGESTION BOX...No suggestions received, however there was a parishioner concern about bulletin and after-Mass announcements.

Bulletin discussion:

Liz went over the procedure involved in having something added to the bulletin.

Fr Ben brought up the idea of a single bulletin for all 3 parishes. 1 page for generic information applicable to all 3 churches, 1 page dedicated to each parish, 1 page for diocesan information. The idea was well received. It will be presented to St Mary's & St Elizabeth Ann Seton's Pastoral Councils and discussed further at our next meeting.

Announcement Discussion:

Procedure for adding announcements was presented by Liz. None are turned down.

It was discussed putting the announcements on the screens in the church before Mass. Also displaying them in the Gathering Room. Tabled for later.

Stewardship -Sharon-no updates

Parish Life & Worship-Cece

Liturgies are planned through Pentecost.

We have a shortage of Eucharistic Ministers (need to certify more) and Ushers. We need commitments for many ministries. It was recommended that we advertise well before Covenant Weekend for these ministries. Also that we train more than once a year. It was decided to move to the Liturgy Committee for action.

New Piano-Sharon

Ryan followed our requests per the last meeting.

He checked on the possibility of reconditioning our piano. There is no local rep which means we would have to have someone from out of town evaluate the piano's condition which would cost

between \$250-\$600 which would not include the cost for any new parts. The new parts would only carry a warranty of 1 year.

Next Ryan & Sharon checked out a Kawai Piano from a store on Erie Blvd. There was no trade in offered for our piano. Next they checked out a Yamaha piano at Piano & Organ Center in N Syracuse. Ryan was not impressed. But then he tried out a Clavinova Piano which Ryan liked. The store offered a \$500 trade-in which covered delivery costs. Proposal to purchase was sent to the Bishop. Chris Raddell okayed to purchase the piano which was installed for Sunday Mass on 2/8/2026. Cost was less than \$5500.

Spiritual Development-Darlene...

It was noted that the Bishop is considering the request to hold communion services and/or prayer services.

Darlene feels the need for more family activities which we all agreed was necessary.

Parish Outreach-Peggy...

Prayer Shawl Ministry-the donations were a success.

Online Prayer Ministry-Peggy will contact Kris skinner & ask her to send out another request to the online prayer group seeking a volunteer to become the new coordinator next year. Also Kristin will add an announcement to the weekly update for same request.

The Baldwinsville Interfaith Green Team continues to work on their pollination project. The group's membership is growing. Members from the Rotary & St Elizabeth Ann Seton have joined the group. The Rotary has added their group to their website under "Bee Green".

Simple Soup Luncheon. Ash Wednesday following the 12:10 Mass. Servers needed...see Peggy

Migrant Workers-Cub scouts have prepared 50 welcome bags for the Migrants. More may be needed. Will work With Mike Conway.

Used Towel & Sock Collection...Huge success.

Outhouse Travels- St Mark's had it in November, Beaver Lake has it in February, Grace Episcopal will have it in April & it will be back at St Augustine's in May.

Hearing Aid & Eyewear Collection-Coming in March

The Advocates for Social Justice -Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program is working to find volunteers to cover the front desk & for youth programs after school & on Saturdays. Affordable Housing Project is organizing a canvass of neighborhoods involved to assess family needs. Rt 81 to come down in April.

Luke 10- Maureen-The members have completed the internal listening campaign and are now conducting external listening to understand the needs of the community. They are also listening to members of Saint Mary's & St Elizabeth Ann Seton...working to spread the need for social justice. There will be a campaign for Immigration issues in the spring.

Lead Poisoning -Maureen- Stressed the need for local leaders to understand the urgency to address this issue.

Holy Hour of Prayer-Maureen-This would be an online group to support the needs as noted by the Bishops from Minneapolis area. It was noted that they are most in need of our prayers. It would take place outside of Mass. Fr Ben advised that the Bishop is in favor of it for each of our 3 churches. Looking at holding it during Easter time.

We attended a national online session, organized by the bishop responsible for migrant issues on the USCCB, to pray for peace in Minneapolis. He encouraged churches to hold a Holy Hour of Prayer service, for which a service guide was provided. We sent a request asking Bishop Lucia if we could hold one, and per Fr Ben, he is in favor of holding services at all three churches (that is, not online), sometime after Easter.

Good Samaritan Fund-Maureen-Protocols were decided; Urgent Financial Needs & prioritize essential services.

A separate line of accounting is needed. Pushing forward to find ways to donate & for a start date.

COVENANT WEEKEND- May 31, 2026 will be the weekend

YOUTH REPORT—

Some youth are getting ready for the trip to Steubenville.

Middle school is planning an upcoming trip.

There is going to be a trip to Italy next year if enough interest is shown.

Pancake Breakfast will be held on Palm Sunday

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT---Lyn. No report

Happy Holidays-Survey shows that people want to get together. However only 38 surveys completed to date.

John would like the results of the survey presented to the finance committee. Maureen will attend.

SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS— Re-Keying. Waiting on better weather. It should be completed in next few weeks.

Maureen is following up with the diocese on further safety concerns.

INFORMATION TABLE—Contact Lucretia if you can work the table after Mass

FORMULATE SCHEDULE FOR 2025-2026 PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETINGS--- we will meet on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month. March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10

OTHER ISSUES—

Possible fundraising idea-Kristin – working on a new concept for a fundraiser. A St Augustine cookbook with Recipes & faith stories. It is a digital concept. Will discuss further at our next meeting.

Important letters from Bishops for reading and reflection: provided by Maureen

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2026/archbishop-coakley-urges-calm-restraint-and-respect-human-life-minneapolis>

Paul Defelice asked how to get information into St Mary & St Elizabeth Ann Seton bulletins. He needs to get in touch with the individuals who gather the information for their bulletins.

Conference & Classroom Use-A discussion was held. It was decided that we will turn Debbie's former office into a conference room. Tyler (counselor) will be given the option of holding his sessions in the conference room or continuing to use the classroom by the faith formation entrance.

Earth Day Clean-Out of storage areas & Rectory Basement. April 18 or 25. The idea was well received. Maureen will come back with a plan at the next meeting.

QR codes suggested by Jen for additional way to read the bulletin.

Todd will bring proposed sign designs to our next meeting.

The weekly updates will be displayed on the TV in the Gathering Room.

Previously tabled items:

(1) Brady Faith Center Request for Support-We will have 1 or 2 special collections. We will ask Kevin Frank to speak.

(2) Faith Austin Request for support-Will see if there can be some money approved via the Good Samaritan Fund

(3) Posting of Meeting Minutes Online-once approved by the Pastoral Council they will be posted on the new website

(4) Suggestion to change daily Mass times to evening for working people- Previous evening Masses were not well attended. Leaving daily Mass during the day

(5) Parish brochure update-Kristin presented a draft. It was suggested we may need a picture of youth as well as adults

(6) Still need a new Prayer Line Ministry head to replace Kris Skinner -Peggy will address with Kris & Kristin will add to Weekly update

Next Meeting---MARCH 11, 2026 at 6:30 (no dinner)

Closing Prayer to Mary was led by Kathy

Respectfully Submitted

Peggy Ford