

Stella Maris Catholic Parish

Pastoral Council Meeting - 02/04/2026

Attendees: Fr. Tom Farrell, Deacon Tony Abts, Deacon Kurt Grube, Tom Polacek (Zoom), Lori Carlson (Zoom), Larry Leporte, Mike Collom, Eric Gale, Jan Liss, Angela Packard, Diane & Larry (zoom)

Opening:

- Opening prayer led by Fr. Tom. Meeting called to order by Tom Polacek.

Approval of minutes:

- Minutes from prior meeting were distributed in advance, edits noted and approved as presented.

Commission / Liaison Reports and Key Updates:

- **Worship (Mike C.)**
 - Altar dedication Mass successful. New Mass setting introduced; cantor rehearsals reestablished; two new cantors recruited.
 - Keyboard relocations across sites to be completed before Easter.
 - Easter planning underway; final details at next worship meeting.
- **Living Justice (Jan L.)**
 - Written update circulated prior. Jan has stepped down as CSR chair.
 - Jail ministry active; additional volunteers requested—contact Jan.
- **Faith Formation (Lori C.; Angela)**
 - Report circulated. Lenten small groups using The Search on FORMED; platform gifted to family/outside participants as needed.
 - Strong participation in family formation; parents and confirmed youth engaged. Four First Communicants this year; eight confirmed next January.
 - Transition from youth catechesis to family-centered model showing positive results.
 - Men's program (Deacon Tony/Deacon Kurt): growing (~12 men) via word-of-mouth; bulletin announcement requested to expand participation. Defined mission/direction now established.

Parish Life:

- No parish life representative present. Tom P. has three potential leads; has contacted one.

Upcoming parish mission:

- Parish mission scheduled Mar 1–3 with Mother Mary-Catherine (Lexio Divina focus). Bulletin notices to follow. Additional suggestions: adoration deep dive and “Five Alive” practices.

Business Administration (Larry L.):

- Joint meeting minutes circulated. Meeting useful for budget planning.
 - Fr. Tom’s retirement planning underway.
 - Financial summary provided to parishioners; revenues below expectations, expenses trending under budget.
-

Pastoral Council Activities (Tom P.):

- New pastor selection likely towards the end of Feb; notification to parish likely after the Easter Season.
- Proposed Leadership Planning Conference (LPC): **Wed, 05/20/2026 at 4:00 PM** with meal to follow. Commission leads asked to help design agenda. LPC seen as key leadership gathering.
- Welcome calls to new parishioners effective; consider a follow-up generic welcome letter.
- Funeral luncheon volunteer signups working well.
- Service & Sharing drive scheduled for weekend of June 13–14; commission leaders to recruit witness speakers.

Charisms / Council Composition (Jan L., Lori C.):

- Discussed identifying parishioners’ spiritual gifts to strengthen PC composition.
- Jan to distribute a spiritual gifts questionnaire; PC to review results and discuss personal charisms at next meeting.

Website / Communications (Mike C., Tom P.):

- Website audit underway to remove outdated content, clarify purpose, and better direct visitors to commission and PC contacts. Small working group to propose improvements.

Future agenda topics (proposals):

1. “Five Alive” discipleship practices and expanding outward application.

2. Discipleship as central parish theme — consider as LPC theme. Suggested steps: discern personal charisms, clarify PC mission, deepen understanding of discipleship, create commission-led opportunities, and foster saint-making formation.
3. Additional topics to be scheduled for future meetings.

Other:

- Bishop's Appeal scheduled for weekend of 02/21–22/2026.
 - Fr. Tom encouraged continued focus on making disciples with a focus on being down to earth and true servants to Christ.
-

Decisions / Action Items:

- Approve previous minutes.
- Complete keyboard movements before Easter (Worship).
- Bulletin announcement for men's program (Deacon Tony).
- Distribute spiritual gifts questionnaire (Jan L.); PC members to complete and discuss at next meeting.
- Confirm LPC date 05/20/2026 and involve commission leads in agenda planning (Tom P.).
- Continue website review and form small working group (Mike C., Tom P.).
- Prepare parish mission publicity for Mar 1–3.

Next Meeting:

- April 8, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

Closing:

- Closing prayer by Fr. Tom. Meeting adjourned.

