



**Saint Gabriel Catholic Church  
Pastoral Council  
Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026**

**Attendance:** Father James Boachie, Deacon John Blakeney, Nancy Wilson, Carroll Connolly, Lourdes Mosley, Eileen Violante, Tom Tortoriello, Kathy Zehender, Clay Bigelow, Richard Purdy, and Lisa Gorton

**Absent:** Stephanie Cochran and John Ambe

**Meeting Venue:** In-person, parish office meeting space

**Opening Prayer:** Deacon John led the opening prayer

**November Meeting Minutes** - Approved

**Old Business:**

Strategic Plan Status

- In November, the plan was submitted to council members. Nancy will resend for review due to the fact she received only one recommendation of a simpler mission statement
- Submit changes no later than March 5.
- Parish staff also need to meet and complete their recommendations. Delayed due to Lisa's absence for January and the start of the Lenten Season.
- The revised copy will be available by the May 28 Pastoral Council Meeting

Parish Mission

- Mission dates: Sat. Feb. 28 10 am – Noon, luncheon Noon for leadership. Sun. March 1, 6-8 pm
- Book has been available for purchase as part of promotion of the Mission
- Not to be publicized prior to Mission – we will record the Mission to make available to parishioners

New Parishioner Recognition

- No fellowship weekend in January and February. Will resume in March and continue to have a table set aside for new parishioners with sign on it. All are invited to visit the table and welcome them.

Youth Mass

- Good response from youth to date and seeking more involvement. Will be on prayer leader sheet and Carole reached out to all middle and high school parents to encourage their children's involvement in the choir, as ushers and lectors.

Youth Group

- November activity had about 8 participants. No interest in December Tacky Lights Tour. January was cancelled due to weather and February did not take place. They will look to March.
- Activities chosen by the youth, but they do not commit to attend.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word 9 am Status

- Will begin Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- We have coverage for all but the second Sunday of the month. Carole is asking those who are currently doing this to cover for that Mass until she can get the minimum of two volunteers signed up and trained.
- Ideally, we are looking for three adults per week.

### Pastoral Council Duties

- Developed by the Diocese, these revised duties outline the council's role in the parish. These were distributed via email and signed by all council members present. Those absent will have copies to sign at the Adult Formation Table in the Commons.

### **Pastor Update:**

#### Redemption/Status of Formation Center

- We are in the redemption period with \$1.18 + to date redeemed
- Recommended to put an arrow at the 1.5 million mark as incentive to goal
- Lenten focus will be on appeal to the community to make our redemption goal.
- Architect and contractor are working on getting the permits to begin construction
- BARC (Building and Renovation Committee for the Diocese) will review and sign off once we get to the financial goal and are ready to break ground
- We hope the breaking ground can coincide with the month-long celebration of the parish in Sept.
- First Weekend: Youth Mass and Fellowship; second weekend: retreat; third weekend: Casino Night and break ground on new building; fourth weekend: Parish Picnic.
- Question poised by Fr. James: Do we need a building Committee? There are a few parishioners who have proposed people to join it. What would a committee do? The Diocese makes the ultimate decisions and BARC approves all plans. We have a parishioner who has engineering experience who has advised and agreed to continue to advise on the project. We will invite him to come to the next meeting.
- An oversight committee was recommended to monitor the work on site which the Diocese cannot do. Having 2 or so engineers of different specialties overseeing the progress may be beneficial.
- There was a question on the timeline of construction once the building begins.

#### Fundraising

- The community is aware of two fundraisers: Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament in May with proceeds going to the Knights activities and the Parish Casino Night held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September.
- We will announce the parish golf tournament through their date and then promote the Casino Night
- We seek to enlarge the space we occupy at Uptown Alley but need the ticket sales to support that additional space.

### **New Business:**

#### Social Justice Spotlight during Lent

- On the Fridays of Lent, the different Social Justice ministries will host the Lenten Meal, provide readers for the stations, and have speakers at all the Masses. These speakers will share how the ministry reaches out to the greater community throughout the year and how parishioners can get involved

#### T-Shirts

- We will have them go on sale again March 28-April 30 – same format with QR code and then the shipment will come to parish for pickup.

- Eileen Violante will reach out to Carole to see about recruitment of youth to serve at the parish picnic and she will buy them all T-Shirts.

## **New Ideas/Comments from Council Members**

### Security Cameras

- Spoken many times in Pastoral Council and promoted by former chair, Jim Haug
- Chesterfield county police also recommended security cameras and been on site with concerns about our inability to see the entrances to the church and driveways.
- This is a measure to keep community, staff, and church property safe and will be a deterrent when we have construction equipment and supplies on site.
- Some parishioners have spoken about them as a waste of money and staff spying on parishioners
- Fr. James requested Carroll Connolly and other Pastoral Council members to speak at the Masses the weekend of Feb. 28 and March 1. Carroll will speak at the 5:30 pm Mass, Tom for the 9 am Mass and Richard for the 11 am Mass.
- Talking points will be provided – I.E., # of cameras and function

### Seating Struggle at 11 am

- An usher at 11 am Mass stated it is difficult to seat latecomers in the worship space, especially with children going out the for the children's liturgy of the word.
- Can ask parishioners to raise their hands with the number of vacant seats near them.
- Prayer leaders can also assist the usher to find seats for those standing in the back.

### Charismatic Prayer Group

- Begins March 4
- Movement that has been in the church for a long time. They pray for the church, sing and read scripture.
- Will be on Wednesdays at 6 pm

## **Important Dates in the Parish Calendar**

Fri., Feb. 20, Friday Devotions – include Exposition and Adoration after 9 am Mass, 9:30-11:45 am; Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10-11:30 am; Exposition 11:45 am; Stations, Noon -12:30 pm; Stations, 6:30 pm; Lenten Meal, 7 pm

Sat., Feb. 21, 10 am – Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fri., Feb. 27, Friday Devotions

Sat. and Sun, Feb. 28/March 1: Fellowship Weekend

Sat., Feb. 28, 10 am – Noon: Parish Mission

Sun., March 1, 6-8 pm: Parish Mission

Fri. March 6, Friday Devotions

Sat., March 7, 10 am – Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fri. March 13, Friday Devotions

Sat., March 14, 10 am – Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fri, March 20, Friday Devotions

Sat., March 21, 10 am – Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sat. & Sun., March 21 & 22 – Food Pantry Weekend

Thurs., March 26, 7 pm – Lenten Reconciliation Service

Fri. March 27, Friday Devotions

Sat. & Sun, March 28 & 29, Palm Sunday Masses at 5:30 pm, 9 am and 11:15 am; Food pantry weekend

Wed., April 1 – parish offices closed at Noon through Mon. April 6

Thurs., April 2, 7 pm – Holy Thursday followed by adoration of Blessed Sacrament until 11 pm

Fri., April 3, Noon – 3 pm – Self Guided stations of the Cross followed by Guided Stations of the Cross; Good Friday Liturgy at 7 pm

Sat., April 4, Noon – Basket Blessing and Easter Egg Hunt; 8 pm Easter Vigil Mass

Sun., April 5, 8 am, 10 am and Noon – Easter Sunday Masses

Sat. & Sun., April 25 & 26 – Food Pantry Weekend

Sat. April 25, 11 am – First Communion Mass

Sat. & Sun, May 2 & 3 – Fellowship Weekend and crowning of Mary at all Masses

Thurs. May 21, 7 pm – Executive Pastoral Council

Fri. May 22, Noon – Parish offices close through May 25

Sat. & Sun., May 23 & 24 – Pentecost Masses

**Closing Prayer/Blessing – Deacon John**

**Next Council Meeting:** Thurs. May 28, 7 pm, office meeting room