



**Saint Gabriel Catholic Church
Pastoral Council
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025**

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

Absent: Carroll Connolley

Meeting Venue: In-person, parish office meeting space

Opening Prayer: Father James led the opening prayer

September Meeting Minutes - Approved

Old Business:

Strategic Plan Status

- Submitted to council members for comment and review
- Suggested to simplify the mission statement
- Any additional suggestions can be sent to Nancy Wilson to consider for the plan
- Staff will meet and compile their changes no later than Feb. 1
- The revised copy will be available by the Feb. 20 Pastoral Council Meeting

St. Gabriel Feast Celebrations

- These were month long with retreat, casino night and picnic.
- All went well but want to grow the event
- Would like to offer ability to order T-shirts during Lent.
- The Casino night was successful and hope for it to grow so we can use more of the space at the venue

Parish Mission

- Distributed copy of Rebuilt to all at the meeting and shared website rebuiltparish.com
- Speaker is Tom Corcoran, Pastoral Associate, and co-author
- Met with him in October to discuss mission and he will be in contact again after the first of the year
- Mission dates: Sat. Feb. 28 10 am – Noon, luncheon Noon for leadership. Sun. March 1, 6-8 pm

Name Tags

- 1278 families had the opportunity to respond to the survey on whether they would like the community to wear them.
- 150 household responses: 66 Yes and 84 No (family members, 143 Yes and 233 no)
- We will not move forward with getting nametags based on results of survey

Youth Mass

- Good response from youth and hope to continue to build this monthly opportunity

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9 am Status

- Currently four volunteers for first Sunday of the month being Virtus trained
- Beginning Dec. 7 and hope to see it grow
- Recommended to have potential volunteers attend a session to see how easy it is to do.
- Good to have a current catechists for 11 am speak about their experience and how easy it is to do

Pastor Update:

Redemption/Status of Formation Center

- We are in the redemption period with \$1,077,000+ to date redeemed
- Recommended to put an arrow at the 1.5 million mark as incentive to goal
- During Christmas we will encourage our guests to support the formation center with access to the QR code

Pastoral Council Job Description

- The Diocese is finalizing their new directives for pastoral council members throughout the Diocese
- This will be distributed we anticipate by our next council meeting

Request of Council Members

- You come to be informed of what is happening in the parish so you can disseminate to fellow parishioners and be messengers of positivity and what is to come for the parish
- Please help community in understanding as well things like why we cannot hold a 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass here at the parish since we must support our Sister Parish of Good Samaritan and have an opportunity for them to celebrate with their pastor
- Same thing with the Thanksgiving Day Mass – very low attendance and by holding that Mass Fr. James was unable to have a meal and fellowship with brother priests. We will celebrate Thanksgiving at the Wed Nov. 26th 9 am Mass instead.

New Business:

Ministry Fundraising/Donation Requests

- As we continue to seek redemption of the capital campaign, we will minimize going to the community for individual ministry fundraising or requests for items as much as possible.

Youth Group

- Begun in early November with ten youth participating in event at Launch
- Currently there are no signups for the Christmas Tacky Lights Tour and deadline approaches at end of the month since a bus needs to be secured
- We will continue to move forward with events that were brainstormed by the youth but currently it is a slow start

Christmas Angel Program

- Currently underway
- Local focus is increasing so we help those in our neighborhood first, then expand

Social Justice Spotlight for Lent

- On Fridays of Lent, we offer after the 9 am Mass – Exposition, Adoration and Benediction to 11:45 am with the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered between 9:45 and 11:30 am. At Noon we have stations of the cross, usually in the garden. At 6:30 pm we offer stations and then a simple Lenten meal provided in the Commons at no cost to the parishioners.

- For the past few years, we have had our social justice ministries provide the Lenten meal, building awareness of these ministries to the greater community.
- Last year we added asking members to give the Stations of the Cross reflections with some volunteering for the Noon and 6:30 pm offerings on Fridays
- This year we would like them to also speak at all the Masses on the weekend following when they serve. (i.e., Fri. Feb. 20 meal, Sat and Sun, Feb. 21 & 22 speak) in the hopes to grow their ministries but also inform the community of how the parish gives back through these ministries.

New Ideas/Comments from Council Members

For Picnic

- Eileen offered her help with getting youth more involved and have them serve those who have mobility issues
- Recommending a tent for the food to keep it from melting

Advent Books

- Thanks to a generous anonymous donor we have books to distribute for each household of the parish. This is through Dynamic Catholic and there are accompanying daily reflections that support the content of the book with advent focus.
- The books will be distributed beginning the first week of Advent – Nov. 29 and 30

Review of Important Dates in the Parish Calendar –

- Advent starts Nov. 29-30
- Fellowship weekend Dec. 6/7
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Holy Day – Mon. Dec. 8, 9 am and 7 pm
- Advent Rec Svs Thurs. Dec. 11, 7 pm
- Nativity Pageant/Concert – Fri. Dec. 12 7 pm
- Parish office Closed: Dec. 23, Noon –Jan. 4
- Christmas Masses – Dec. 24, 4 & 10 pm and Dec. 25, 10 am (Good Samaritan 6:30 pm)
- Feast Mary Mother of God Mass – Holy Day - Jan. 1, 10 am
- No Fellowship Jan.3&4
- Joint Councils Meeting – Thurs. Jan. 8, 7 pm in Church meeting room
- Parish office closed – Mon. Jan. 18
- Fellowship weekend –Feb. 7/8
- Liturgical Ministry Retreat – Sat. Feb. 7, 9 am – Noon
- Executive Pastoral Council Meeting – Thurs. Feb. 12
- Parish office closed – Mon. Feb. 16
- Ash Wednesday – Feb. 16, 9 am and 7 pm Masses
- Pastoral Council, Thurs. Feb. 19, 7 pm

Closing Prayer/Blessing – Deacon John

Next Council Meeting: Thurs. Jan. 8, 7 pm in Church meeting room – Joint Council meeting
And Thurs. Feb. 19, 7 p.m. in Office Meeting Room