



# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

## Pastoral Council Meeting

### Minutes

Monday, August 25, 2025

**PRESIDED BY:** Ben Hubbard, PC Vice President

**OPENING PRAYER:** Suzi Aler

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes were sent via email to all members for review.
- Motion to approve minutes was made by Deborah Freeman and seconded by Seymour Castro
- Minutes were unanimously approved

#### NEW BUSINESS

- **Mass Announcements – Jean Woodman – Agenda Item**

- The topic of announcements before Mass was reviewed.
- Decision: Lectors will be designated to read announcements. Implementation will begin after the upcoming ministry training at the end of September.
- Priests may still choose to reiterate announcements at their discretion.
- Concerns were raised regarding consistency in announcing hymn numbers and page references:
  - Sometimes cantors announce page numbers, but not consistently.
  - Placards were introduced for readings several months ago; however, they are difficult for some parishioners to see.
- Suggestions included enlarging the numbers, improving lighting, or offering a parishioner class on using the hymnals and missals.
- It was noted that announcements are also available through the bulletin, social media, and the projection screens.
- Discussion acknowledged the difficulty of pleasing all preferences (before vs. after Mass announcements).
- General agreement that consistency and clarity remain priorities.

- **First Saturday Devotions – Sache Thorne – Agenda Item**

- Beginning October 4, the parish will introduce First Saturday Devotions in alignment with the request from Our Lady of Fatima.
- Schedule:
  - 3:30 PM – Confessions
  - 4:45 PM – Rosary, followed by meditation and silent reflection
  - 5:00 PM – Mass
  - After Mass – Litany of Loreto and indulgence prayers
- Participation fulfills the requirements of the First Five Saturdays devotion: confession, rosary, meditation, Mass, indulgence prayers.
- A “passport card” will be provided to track completion of the five consecutive Saturdays.
- Optional devotional book available through the parish bookstore.
- Ministry leadership: Father Ziemowit, and Father Stephen, with assistance from Elizabeth Mahoney and Christine Bird.
- Flyers and parish communications will be distributed in advance.

- **Pilgrimage to the Holy Family Shrine (September 20) – Jean Woodman – Agenda Item**

- First bus is full; the second bus is filling quickly.
- Registration closes September 10 to allow time for preparation and the pilgrims’ orientation meeting on September 11.
- If a third bus does not fill, it will be canceled to ensure all pilgrims can participate fully.
- Father Ziemowit will give talks on the bus rides, rotating between buses.
- Parishioner registration requires an online code (SHPAR2025). Each registration must be submitted individually.

- **Diocese of Savannah Jubilee + Harvest of Hope Campaign – Jean Woodman – Agenda Item**

- Campaign is progressing well; ACA portion surpassed.
  - Not all pledges are complete yet toward the \$1.2 million goal, but funds are being collected.



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- Participation is currently at 13% of parishioners. Additional collections are scheduled.
- Diocese is leading preparations for Jubilee Celebration; Sacred Heart is providing the space.
  - Volunteers are needed, especially for parking assistance and bilingual support in breakout sessions, per Sache Thorne, via Sandra Molina.
  - The official volunteer sign-up link may already be closed due to scheduling needs.
  - Parishioners are encouraged to attend and enjoy the event rather than only serving as volunteers.
  - A parish banner will be included in the procession; volunteers will be needed to carry it.
- **Ministry Fair Weekend (September 13–14) – Agenda Item**
  - Council members will be needed to staff kiosks after each Mass during the ministry fair weekend.
  - Volunteers were scheduled themselves to cover specific Masses. Some noted conflicts due to involvement in other ministries, but slots are being coordinated as follows
    - 5 pm Mass no one is available
    - 9 am Mass Gigi and Scott
    - 1145 am Mass Sachie
    - 2 pm Mass Victor
  - Ministry Fair Logistics
    - Tables will be set up in the hall of the Narthex.
    - Approximately 20 ministries will be present.
    - Tables will be available down both walls of the hall.

#### AROUND THE ROOM

- **Gigi Tebbe - Welcoming Committee, Ushers, and EM, Lector, Greeter**
  - Concerns raised about the 11:45 AM Mass:
  - Shortage of ushers and greeters, requiring individuals to perform multiple roles.
  - Suggestion to form a welcoming committee, with support from additional volunteers.
  - Emphasis that roles (e.g., Extraordinary Ministers, lectors, ushers, greeters) should remain distinct rather than overlapping during the same Mass.
  - It was noted that training for liturgical roles must always be cleared with the pastor.
- **Gigi Tebbe - Mass Collections**
  - Noted inconsistencies in second collections at different Masses.
  - Suggestion to acquire more collection baskets to ensure all sections of the congregation are covered.
  - Additional concerns were discussed regarding the second collection process:
  - Currently, only one basket is used for the second collection, which slows things down.
  - **Recommendation:**
    - provide more baskets and ensure ushers communicate the need directly to Father for approval.
  - Parishioners often do not know the purpose of the second collection.
    - **Suggestions** included:
      - Announcing it in the bulletin the week prior.
      - Having lectors or ushers remind parishioners briefly (without disrupting Mass).
    - **Reinforcing** through verbal announcements at the end of Mass or in closing remarks. Ushers suggested quietly stating the purpose (“Harvest of Hope,” “Building Fund,” etc.) while passing the basket.
    - Some priests announce, others prefer not to.
  - It was acknowledged this remains at the celebrant’s discretion.
  - Broader communication—through parish media, bulletins, and electronic platforms—was encouraged.
- **Jean Woodman - Parish Gift Shop Payment Options**
  - Gift shop is exploring use of a “Square” credit card system.
  - Decision will be finalized prior to the Jubilee celebration.



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- If implemented, a minimum purchase will be set due to transaction fees.
- Finance Council has reviewed the proposal.
- **Jean Woodman - "Glorify 360" Health Ministry**
  - A new Health Ministry has launched, consisting of parishioners from varied health professions.
  - Physical therapists, dietitians, and a psychiatrist are among those involved.
  - Program is not paid; goal is mutual support in improving health to strengthen evangelization efforts.
  - Symbolism: circle represents wholeness and the Eucharist, centered on Mary.
  - Mission: "Glorify the Father in heaven" through a holistic lifestyle.
  - Parishioners encouraged to share information via word of mouth and social media.
- **Sache Thorne - Rescue Project (Pilot Program)**
  - Sacred Heart will host a pilot weekend of the Rescue Project series, condensed from the usual 8-week format:
  - Dates: September 26–28
  - Schedule:
    - Friday – 5:30 PM dinner followed by sessions until 8 PM
    - Saturday – 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, includes breakfast and lunch
    - Sunday – 9:00 AM Mass followed by final session at 10:15 AM
  - Cost: \$40 per participant (includes meals and books).
  - Purpose: to deepen understanding of why Jesus died on the Cross and to equip parishioners to evangelize more effectively.
- **Seymour Castro** – Use the envelope for your Harvest of Hope donation.

#### ON THE HORIZON

- Ministry Fair

#### PARISHIONER SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS

- None

#### CLOSING OF MEETING

- **Closing Prayer:** Seymour Castro
- **Meeting Adjourned:** Ben Hubbard

#### ATTENDENCE

Jean Woodman	Scott Ostrow
Suzi Aler	Barbara Rodriguez
Linda Bratcher	Gigi Tebbe
Seymour Castro	Victor Talamantes
Deborah Freeman	Sachie Thorne
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