

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: May 14, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM



In Attendance

Present: Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, Andrew Boyd, Jeremy Thompson, Kelli Siemieniak, Grant Carruthers, Spencer Oliva, Deacon John Osnes, Deacon Phil Thompson, Lorraine Ptacek, Angela Howard, Courtney Maurer, Lorinda Collings, Katie Harwood

Prayer: The meeting opened with a prayer led by Deacon Phillip Thompson.

Commission/Committee Updates

Worship

Lorraine is working to get a funeral cantor training. She has applied for a grant from National Pastoral Musicians speaker in September at Our Lady of the Black Hills with a concert and musicians day. She is working toward having the pianos tuned.

Stewardship

Wine and Cheese is on May 16th.

Evangelization

The Our Ladies' Tea went well. There is a Summer Fun sheet full of parish events. We will have a Pentecost ice cream party to celebrate the birthday of the Catholic Church.

Faith Formation

Overall the parental survey responses were positive. The like Remind and the Parish Dinners. Registration for fall catechesis and for VBS is open.

Administration

A meeting has not been held.

Building Committee

Bulb and ballast replacement is being looked into throughout the basement.

Finance Council Update

The 2026-2027 proposed budget approved by the finance council was presented. To create the budget Lorinda, our bookkeeper, met with staff to discern upcoming needs. Then a meeting with the diocese determined a 2.3% cola and a change in health insurance plans; those numbers were set by the diocese. Then the active Catholic discount will now cost the parishes \$1350 per student. The finance council took this into consideration and came up with a conservative budget with a minor plate and building fund projected donation increase. Once everything for the fiscal year has been paid, the plan is to keep 3 months in checking and then transfer any extra into savings. The only unknown was the building insurance cost and whether it will change dramatically for the next year. A motion to approve the budget as proposed and passed by the finance council was made by Jeremy Thompson. Spencer Oliva provided a second. The motion to approve as read was carried unanimously.

Leadership Plan

We are working to establish the Pastoral Priorities and goals for 2026-2030 for the parish based on the values of Mercy, Stewardship, Prayer, and Excellence. Each member was asked to look through the surveys for themes for priorities. Each person was asked to bring back 3-4 goals based on our values.

Discipleship

Deacon Greg Sass is stepping down as head of the Discipleship Commission. Deacon Phillip Thompson will take over. A meeting was held last week and they determined goals, etc. The minutes of the discipleship commission are included here. The October meeting will focus on enrollment and challenges.

Announcements/Upcoming Events

- *5/23 following 5 PM Mass, Concert with Joshua Weaver and Michelle Skoog
- *5/24 following 11 AM Mass, Pentecost Party, Ice cream for all
- *6/7 Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession following 11 AM Mass, following the procession will be a hot dog lunch and bounce house and train rides
- *VBS 6/8-12, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
- *A Story and A Saint, Wednesdays at 10 AM, June 17-Aug 5
- *6/27 Senior Salute
- *Young Family Polucks on 6/17, 7/22, 8/19
- *7/18, 6:30-8:30 PM Pool Party at Jimmy Hilton Pool
- *7/29 Outdoor Movie
- *8/12, 10 AM, Rosary and Bikes

The meeting closed with the prayer for our parish.

Future Meeting Dates: Jun 11

DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION MINUTES



Date: May 7, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

In Attendance

Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, Deacon John Osnes, Deacon Greg Sass, Angela Howard, Courtney Maurer, Janile Bestgen, Lisa Katzenstein, Jenny Scherr, Deacon Phillip Thompson (guest)

Absent: Larry/Joyce Williamson, Katie Hoiten

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were distributed in advance for review.

There was discussion about participation in the Deanery Wide Discipleship evenings sponsored by the STM retreat team. The first one was the night before and the responses received by some of the parents whose children attended said it was a valuable experience, good music, testimonies and provided a wider sense of the local church.

The dates for the next year have been set by the team so the plan with the parish is attendance at the event will be the faith formation for those youth, to encourage attendance. There was some discussion about transportation, which will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Commission Goals for 2026-2027

See separate document for the goals. Each of the goals was reviewed in detail and adjusted to make them SMART goals, with one more electronic review once the final wording is completed. Once finalized, they will be published as the final 2026-2027 goals.

Faith Formation Updates

- OCIA/RCIA
 - Larry and Joyce were unable to attend but provided a written report which is attached. Overall evaluations were very positive. Search program received mixed feedback, helpful for those exploring faith, but less effective for baptized candidates

DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION GOALS 2026-2027



Commission Goals for 2026-2027

I. Spiritual Growth

- **Retreats Weekend:** By June 30, 2027, a minimum of 20 adults (catechists, parents, and/or other parishioners) will participate in at least one faith based retreat (parish hosted, diocesan, or external) during the 2026–2027 program year, as verified by paid registration records or sign in sheets, and tracked by the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator.
- **Year of St. Francis Activities:** During calendar year 2026, in observance of the Year of St. Francis designated by Pope Leo XIV, the parish will host at least one event highlighting the life, spirituality, or legacy of St. Francis and publish three St. Francis–focused articles across parish communications.

II. Leadership and Formation

- **Catechist Training:** By June 30, 2027, train four new catechists as CGS Catechists (new Level 1 or next level CGS Catechist), CGS assistants, VSI Basics, or some other appropriate formation as approved by the pastor and tracked by the formation staff.
- **Complete Atrium:** By the start of the Fall 2026 Formation Program, have the St. Joan of Arc classroom prepare for the designated level of CGS, supervised by the Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator.
- **Stand-alone Faith Formation Opportunities:** By June 30, 2027, the parish will offer at least four stand-alone faith formation opportunities for busy adult parishioners, scheduled at accessible times and requiring little to no ongoing commitment. These offerings will provide entry-level to mid-level formation in a low-stress format that supports spiritual growth and community, with the goal of reaching parishioners who do not typically participate in long-term formation programs.

III. Stewardship

- During the 2026–2027 program year, through one-on-one invitations (in person or by phone), staff and parish leaders will invite participation so that at least seven individual parishioners who have not previously volunteered will assist with at least one faith formation related event, with the staff noting the new volunteers.

already well formed. Sponsors were rated very highly by candidates. Retreat experiences were praised for fostering community and readiness. Ongoing discernment encouraged in tailoring content to catechumens vs. candidates.

- **Pre-K to 6th Faith Formation**, see Courtney's attached reports.
 - Attendance remained strong overall, with expected dips during spring sports. Parent survey feedback highlighted: strong appreciation for prayer formation and CGS life skills, children gaining independence and confidence, a welcoming parish atmosphere. And summer programming was strongly encouraged by families.
 - Updates included:
 - Saint & Story Time with Adoration (June 17 –August 5, Wednesdays)
 - August 12 Rosary & Bibles event
 - July 18 pool party
 - June VBS (continued strong need for adult and teen volunteers)
- **Adult and Middle/High School**
 - The YDisciple model continues to be effective: youth appreciated small group discussion and relevance to daily life, content was adapted by leaders to fit group needs. Some notable successes: strong engagement among older high school students, and positive feedback from youth who found faith more “usable” and relevant.
 - Next year, the new Adoramus diocesan initiative for 8-12th grade will be supported by incorporating it into the YDisciple schedule and encouraging participation from our OLBH teens.
 - Confirmation Program Evaluations: highly positive overall. Strengths: prayer experiences, overnight retreat, sponsor involvement. Challenges: sessions felt rushed; students and parents wanted more community building.
 - After discussion it was decided: keep weekly sessions at 75 minutes for now and explore adding a fall retreat to allow more relational time without extending weekly class hours.

Leadership Change

Deacon Greg announced Deacon Phillip Thompson is taking over as chair of the commission.

Next Meeting

- **October 29, 2026** – Focus: Enrollment & Challenges
- **February ??, 2027** – Focus: Goals
- **May ??, 2027** – Focus: Evaluations