

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH (SMCC) | HUNTERSVILLE, NC
PASTORAL COUNCIL | MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 2026 | FINAL

Date: 7-8 pm, Monday, 1/26/2026

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Father John Putnam, John Ferrannini, Tricia Sisson, Jairo I. Cadena, Jr., Bill Mooney, Mike Garcia, Chris Bixler, , Mark Antoszyk, Liz Swanson, Devon Atkins, Adriana Cadena, Rob Cannon, Scott Matey, Scott Bruno, Chris Lemke (Interim member), Alex Fowler (guest speaker)

Absent: Chris Fernandez, Chad Wilson

1. Opening

- Prayer intentions

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from June 2025 and November 2025 were previously distributed.
- Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Approved minutes will be posted to the parish website.

3. Security Presentation – Alex Fowler

Topic: Security incident at City’s Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

Summary of Key Points

- Approximately three dozen individuals entered and disrupted a Sunday worship service for approximately 20 minutes.
- Group appeared to be anti-immigration enforcement demonstrators, targeting the church due to an assistant pastor’s employment with ICE.
- Aggressive behavior was reported toward congregants, including children.
- Delayed police response: demonstrators exited shortly before officers arrived.
- Released court documents revealed additional concerning behavior, including blocking parents from accessing children in the church basement.
- Three arrest warrants were issued; several others—including a media figure—were denied.

Assessment for St. Mark Parish

- Incident may serve as a “proof of concept” for activists elsewhere.
- Short-term local risk considered low; long-term risk may increase as national issues shift.
- Enhanced security protocols recommended, especially regarding:
 - Access control
 - Safeguarding children
 - Sanctuary flow and emergency response

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4. Secretary Position

- **Jairo Cadena, Jr.** volunteered to serve as secretary.
- Will utilize recording and AI transcription tools for efficient minute-taking.
- Motion to appoint Jairo as Secretary was passed unanimously.

5. Parish Council Membership Updates

- **Adriana Cadena** will fill the remaining 18 months of an existing council term.
- **Chris Lemke** is attending on a trial basis and will confirm continued participation.
- A backup candidate is available if needed.

6. Microsoft Teams Access Issues

- Council members reported Difficulty uploading parish bylaws and other documents Teams.
- Outdated access lists
- Missing file access and folder visibility.
- Issue will be reviewed and corrected; updated lists to follow.

7. Knights of St. Joseph Report

- Mass attendance is increasing significantly; recruitment drive planned to support ushers and security.
- New security trainings conducted addressing:
 - Disruptions during Mass
 - Pre-planned disturbances
 - Sanctuary movement following altar-rail removal
- AEDs and first-aid equipment under review for standardization with Mecklenburg EMS.

8. Christmas Decorating Committee Proposal

- Motion to appoint **Bill Mooney** as committee chair was passed.

- Members would include:
 - **Sr. Mary Agnes** – Interior decorations
 - **Bob Langbone** – Outdoor nativity & lighting
 - **Dominic Golino** – Former Liaison to Knights of Columbus
 - **Emily Bixler** – Liaison to parish staff
 - **Mary Jane Zimmerman** – Logistics and tree setup
 - **Amy Burger** – Communications and bulletin items

- **Future Topic:** Replacement options for two large exterior Christmas trees (Full presentation to be provided at next month's meeting.)

- **Storage Issue:** Christmas decorations remain in the alcove and must be moved to storage. A trailer is required. Completion requested prior to Ash Wednesday.

9. Director of Operations Report – Scott Bruno

- New insurance claim was opened regarding roof issues.
- Meeting scheduled with insurance adjuster and contractor.
- Awaiting results of roof core samples.

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10. School Report

- School representative was invited but unavailable; no report submitted.

11. Old Business

- Parish bylaws will be uploaded to Teams once access issues are resolved.
- Goal: finalize revisions by the end of the current council session (May 2026).
- Christmas decorations and layout received positive feedback; minor scale considerations noted for next year.

12. Parish Eyes & Ears

- No major complaints reported.
- Ongoing public misconception regarding kneelers noted; members encouraged correct misinformation when encountered.

13. New Member Introduction

- **Adriana Cadena** introduced herself and shared her longstanding involvement in the parish and Hispanic ministries.

14. Pastor's Report

- **Catholic Schools Week:** Events adjusted due to snow.
- **Camino (sp?) Initiative:** Program focuses on strengthening relationships and outreach. May involve targeted invitations and new engagement opportunities.
- **Communion Logistics:** Adjustments made to improve distribution flow given sanctuary changes.
- **Lent Preparation:** Ash Wednesday planning underway, including multiple services for crowd management.
- **Organ Acquisition;** Parish acquiring a refurbished pipe organ from a closed Baltimore shrine. Donor will cover moving costs; instrument will be placed in storage until installation funding becomes available.

Financial Overview:

- Christmas collection significantly exceeded projections.
- Offertory slightly below budget YTD.
- Staff asked to limit discretionary spending.

14. Closing

- Next meeting: 7 pm, Monday , **February 23, 2026**, PM at the Kerin Center.
- The meeting concluded with a closing prayer and blessing.