



SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St. Lawrence Church Parish Council Meeting

March 26, 2026

Members present: Donna Lebert, Jack Schuster, Bob DeMarini

Others in attendance: Father Joe DeCosta, Al Karg, Deacon John Balchus, Bill Zeidler, Karole Kreutter (partial meeting)

The meeting opened at 7:03 pm with a welcome from Donna Lebert and a prayer from Father Joe. The January 22, 2026 minutes were formally approved. Marina Rossi has submitted her resignation from the Council. We thank her for her time and efforts on the Council.

Ministry Committee Reports:

Liturgy:

Karole Kreutter reviewed the Parish survey results which are attached. It was suggested that copies of the initial results be provided in the bulletin and mentioned at the pulpit that the information is in the bulletin. Deacon John had questions for Father Joe regarding expectations for the Liturgy committee. He stated he would like the committee to meet once a month for the basic members. During special Holy seasons he would like the (sub-committees) lead person of the following groups to attend: Music, Eucharistic Minister, Lectors, Altar servers and Altar decor. Father Joe confirmed that a O.C.I.A. will be formed.

Additional suggestions:

- That all Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers meet and are retrained.
- A new street sign is made that is more welcoming.
- That we have better advertising to the public about being a welcoming church.
- That there is a way to introduce St. Peter and St. Lawrence parishioners.
- Would anyone like to contribute what the Prayers of the Faithful are each week.

Finance:

Father Joe stated that: we are currently still in the red. The new Finance committee has not met yet but a meeting will be scheduled soon. Finance reports have been given to each of the members.

Religious Education (CCD): information was submitted by Joe Lenart

- All active classes have met their yearly obligation for the sacrament of reconciliation for 2026.
- Vacation Bible camp will be 6/29-7/2. Four day program.
- Confirmation class retreat is scheduled for 5/16 at St. Peter's church.

- 2026/2027 Catechism class registration paperwork will be submitted next week.

The "no. Go tell" paperwork was submitted to the Diocese of Norwich youth safety office 2 weeks ago.

- Joe is assisting with coordination of the altar servers' participation in the Triduum masses at St. Peter's for Holy week.
- There are possibly 2 students interested in becoming altar servers.
- Joe should be receiving admin authority to grant access for volunteers to the safe environment training videos on presidium shortly.

Father Joe would like to bring back CCD Classes being involved in the Mass and would also like to schedule time to visit the CCD classes.

TIA: Information submitted by Kirk Whiteman.

The TIA is leading the stations of the cross on 3/27 and will be selling religious jewelry. Jewelry will also be sold at all Masses this weekend. There will be bake sales, after Masses, weekends of April 25th and 26th and on June 6th and 7th. Kirk is trying to arrange to have the TIA take the spare rummage sale items to Savers to allow income for their trip. Confirmation is forthcoming.

Healing Ministry: Information submitted by Alice Lucas

REPORT OF HEALING MINISTRIES' ACTIVITIES FOR 2025

- We Gave 120 rides to medical appointments for the year
- Performed 61 monthly blood pressure checks
- Led Stations of the Cross on the 14th of March
- In April presented a free movie, "Risen", in the church hall
- In May we manned the rose table for Birthright's fund raiser
- In October we invited an insurance expert to speak about the basics of Medicare and to alert our parishioners to the expected changes in insurance for 2026
- In December we gave monetary donations to St. Vincent DePaul in Middletown
- and to Birthright in Westbrook.

It was suggested that the highlights of this information be published in the bulletin.

Hospitality:

The rummage sale is still scheduled for April 18th. The signup sheets have been placed in the Narthex. The Strawberry festival is scheduled for 6/20. Coffee and was on Sunday March 22nd.

Plant and Facilities:

The driveway sealing and crack fill needs to be scheduled. The quotes need to be reviewed by finance. This was previously budgeted to be paid out of the reserve account Some of the trees on the property need to be checked.

Communications:

The wireless in the church is now fixed. Joe L stated the plan is to set up the current TV in the Narthex to display events and schedules. Joe is also trying to arrange for the donation of a used computer to replace the aging one that is used in the office. It was stated that the Lenten schedule was not properly published. Special season Mass' schedules should be published on our Facebook and Instagram sites in addition to our website. Shana Paladino has been hired to maintain the weekly church Bulletin.

New Business:

- It has been stated that parishioners are still not happy with the sound system. It was discussed to purchase new microphones for the Priests. Bob D is going to investigate. Not sure if we should re-contact Unitch who worked on it last. Dawn W will also be asked for input.

Old Business:

- Open volunteer positions are still an issue.
- Parish directory. Donna L continues to clean up our current registry. It is a difficult task.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm with a prayer by Fr. Joe. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on May 28th, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Lebert