

St. John's Pastoral Council

Fr. Temo Ramírez, Pastor

Steve Duncan, 2024-2026

Helen MacDonald, 2024-27

Cassandra Elizalde, 2023-26

Tyler Saty, 2024-27

Jorge Flores, Vice-Chair, 2023-26

Helen Sheerin, Chair, 2022-25

John Gent, 2024-27

Colleen Torrens, 2023-26

Jacqueline Hemmer, 2024-25

Aidé Véliz, 2024-27

Laura Jackson, 2023-26

Ann Makar, Recording Secretary

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2025

All council members, except Helen Sheerin and Steve Duncan, were present. Also present were Lori Jimerson, Lorena Heredia, and from the Finance Council Lee Santoyo, Randy Krebs, and Lori Mandt Hernández. The pastor offered an opening prayer at 6:04. The minutes from the January 17 meeting were approved as submitted.

Pastoral Report

Pastoral Assistant for Administration Lori Jimerson reminded the council that Fr. Temo is “being stretched thin” by Partners in the Gospel; e.g., he is required to attend every Finance Council meeting of the five parishes.

Lori shared a flyer from St. Philip, which will use the book *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory* as a Lenten journey.

Lori and the guests from the Finance Council discussed the budget. Since we are a non-for-profit organization, the budget is drawn up to expend all revenue. There are four main sources of revenue: weekly offering by envelope or online, weekly loose offering, holy day offering by envelope or online, and holy day loose offering. Since only a small number of parish households make a pledge, it's impossible to develop an accurate budget. What Lori and the other PAA's in the family do in that case is to estimate a budget based on the prior year's revenue. As of today, 116 of 1,424 households have pledged for a total of \$263,718, or about 30% of the annual budget. Currently, contributions are down about \$43,000 from last year. Lee would like to see a larger percentage of revenue used on property maintenance; e.g., the kitchen should be updated more. The parish has been “applying bandages” rather than investing the money needed to maintain the property well.

In the future, the bulletin will show the amount budgeted FYTD, the amount received FYTD, and the variance. It's currently \$-16,000. St. John's budget is going to include the costs associated with all three priests.

Having expended more time than anticipated, the finance council members excused themselves, and pastoral council members continued to explore ways to improve the response of parishioners to challenges regarding time, talent, and treasure.

Lori stated that funeral receptions are held without charge, but the funeral reception ministry had been absorbing costs of food. A small fee may be requested in the future. Janitorial needs after various functions (e.g., quinceañera events can leave the nave littered with glitter, which is difficult to clean) prompted the idea to charge a refundable cleaning fee.

Lori suggested we need a stewardship coordinator or a couple to act as stewardship coordinators. Fr. Temo plans to ask Mass attendees to respond in writing as to whether or not they will pledge financial giving, as it would be helpful to hear from more households about their intention to pledge or not. Envelopes are available in pews and in the narthex. Colleen suggested that larger sheets of paper be used when we ask people to pledge time, talent, or treasure. It's important that someone follow up when interest in joining a ministry has been expressed.

John encouraged us to bring to the next meeting ideas to help the parish with respect to the budget or time, talent, and treasure. Lori said there will be a transition in staff soon that will decrease costs and said that the parish is under-staffed. Lori reported that Mass counts show 400 more people attend now than attended last May.

Liaison Reports

- John has no news to report from his ministries.
- Helen M. said that the two women who lead the funeral reception ministry need another person to help them. We discussed placing a notice in the bulletin to include specific duties that parishioners can shoulder, since most people may not want to become a leader.
- Cassandra and Jorge have no news from their ministries, except for discussion regarding hospitality and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Should two mobile EMHC's continue to distribute Holy Communion in the middle of the nave? Everyone in the nave could approach the front. This would hopefully simplify foot traffic, lessen distractions, and increase reverence. Fr. Temo is fine with the idea, so Cassandra and Jorge will discuss it with Marina Diaz. Father

asked them to inform lectors that they must practice more before proclaiming scriptures.

- Tyler reported that PREPARES received the large donation of diapers expected from Costco. The group has received so much clothing that it lacks space and is sharing donated items with another parish.
- The Knights of Columbus is preparing to host an Easter egg hunt after each Mass celebrated Easter Sunday. There's no news from Tyler's other ministries.
- Helen S. and Jacque have no news to report.
- Colleen shared that a \$5,000 grant came from an archdiocesan office related to cemeteries, of which \$1,000 is restricted to help with funeral expenses.
- For information from Laura and more from Colleen, please see addenda.

New Business

Lori mentioned the Parish Family Advisory Council and the need for the pastoral council to continue after 2027, when the five parishes in Family #44 will be one canonical parish.

We discussed 40 Days for Life, and Fr. Temo asked that we reach out to all ministries to encourage their participation. He'd like us to prepare a sign-up sheet for the narthex.

Lori reported that a "baby bottle drive" will take place the weekend March 1 and 2. The funds collected will benefit Birthright.

Ann raised the question whether a modest perpetual adoration chapel could be located at St. John's. Fr. Temo suggested that the confessional could be modified, e.g., with an added door opening to the outside. Currently there's no money for the project. John volunteered to reach out to Matthew Kelly's organization that helps parishes establish adoration chapels.

A Lenten retreat is planned April 7-11. The prior week, March 31-April 4, Father will celebrate 9 AM Mass daily. There will be 7 PM Mass daily, except for April 4, when Benediction will take place at 6 PM, followed by Stations of the Cross. Monday through Thursday, we will hold Eucharistic Adoration from the end of morning Mass until 7 PM and Friday until Benediction. Father asked us to contact all ministries to encourage them to commit to at least one hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

At 8:30 the pastor led us in the prayer for Partners in the Gospel. The next council meeting will be 6 PM in the Fireside Room Friday, March 21.