

SEAS Pastoral Council Minutes

January 12, 2026

Attendance: John Culhane, Sarah Culhane, Cathy Newell, John Beres, Terry Person, Cathy Houston-Wilson

Absent: Barb Riley, Tom Trabold, Bill Bieter, Linda Knab, Randy Conlon, Fr. Joe Marcoux

Recording Secretary: Rachael Vergari

Welcome Prayer - Cathy

Agenda Items

- 1. Approve minutes from last meeting** - Minutes of 11.10.25 accepted with changes

- 2. Review the update to parishioners that will be included in the bulletin**
 - A. Pastoral Council 2025 Accomplishments:**
 1. Served in an advisory capacity to Fr. Joe with the day-to-day operations of two churches.
 2. Attended monthly Pastoral Council meetings jointly with Nativity and separately following the joint meeting.
 3. Reviewed and updated the Bylaws.
 4. Phased out the Prayer for the World Today.
 5. Hosted the SEAS Garage Sale at Nativity.
 6. Assisted in the selection process of new pastoral council members.
 7. Created a new bulletin board in the Narthex to share updates.
 8. Hosted a reception for Sharon Campbell.
 9. Assisted with securing volunteers to make dessert donations for various events.
 10. Supported the Thanksgiving Dinner, and outreach to community members.
 11. Supported the Parish Fund Raiser Auction.
 12. Participated in a workshop on church safety.
 13. Sent postcards inviting non-attending parishioners from SEAS and Nativity to come to Christmas mass. Also, shared times for weekly mass at SEAS and Nativity.
 14. Serve as greeters at Sunday mass.

 - B. Goals for 2026**
 1. Continue to serve in an advisory capacity to Fr. Joe with the day-to-day operations of two churches.
 2. Host meet and greet periodically for new parishioners.

- a. We would like to establish a hospitality committee as part of the Parish Life Committee. The committee would help host meet and greets after mass periodically, send welcome letters and introduce themselves at mass.
 - b. Cathy asked Deb if she gets a list of newly registered parishioners and she said she does not. She said the only way she knows if someone is new is if they call the office and self-report. We need to figure out a way to find out when someone new joins our parish other than by this process. Deb said she would share that information with us.
3. Facilitate the administration of our Time, Talent and Treasure survey.
 - a. Cathy created a new form to survey parishioners. We need to determine the best way and time to administer this survey. We need to have Fr. Joe McCaffrey approve this. Cathy will reach out to him.
 - b. Debbie Ryan - Finance Council Chair, agreed she would like information on how much parishioners plan to give for the 2026 year.
 4. Host Ministry Fair to recruit parishioners to serve on various committees (e.g., Parish Life, Hospitality, Fund Raising...).
 - a. It was suggested the Ministry Fair does not always yield the results we would like. Another idea is to highlight a committee each week during announcements and post in the bulletin and have people sign up at mass and give a contact person in the bulletin.
 5. Create promotion materials for SEAS (e.g., magnets, lawn signs)
 6. Repair the panel of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
 7. Continue to implement church safety protocols.
 8. Create a parish directory book.
 9. Facilitate the 2nd Annual Garage Sale.
 - a. The SEAS garage sale will coincide with the Hamlin Community Garage Sale. We need to get the date of this event.
 10. Continue to support parish events (e.g., Thanksgiving Dinner, Auction...)
 11. Continue to work collaboratively with Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary to enhance our clustering efforts, provide opportunities for socialization and spiritual development among parishioners, and grow our parishes.

C. Discussed the proposed Mission Statement - this will be shared with the parish for feedback. People will have till the end of February to give feedback.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we, the parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and love. United in faith, we use our God-given gifts to serve one another, grow in holiness, and live as faithful disciples of Christ.

3. Bulletin Board in the Narthex - The bulletin board is coming along. Cathy still needs a few more pictures. She will continue to work on it.

4. Wine Tasting/Auction Event -

- The proposed Wine Tasting aspect of the auction was not permitted due to insurance issues. Discussed why wine tasting is allowed at St. Leo's but was not allowed at SEAS. Learned that the Knights of Columbus has different hosting rights and the KofC at St. Leo's is hosting the event. We should continue to look into how SEAS can offer a wine tasting as part of the event for the future.
- **The auction netted ~\$3,855.00 in profit.** A summary of the event will be shared in the bulletin.

5. Church Safety Update -

- John Beres reported that all the doors to the church are locked, the ushers are in the back of the church to let parishioners in once mass starts.
- Exits are being pointed out at the beginning of mass.
- SEAS still needs to purchase a trauma kit and look into a new AED.
- Cathy noticed a diocesan safety plan in the copy room. She will share with John to review.

6. Christmas Mass Outreach

On behalf of both SEAS and Nativity, Cathy developed and sent out postcards inviting non-attending members of SEAS and Nativity to come to Christmas Mass to zip codes 14420 and 14464. Times were given for each Christmas mass and also times of Saturday/Sunday masses at each church. Many cards were returned with incorrect addresses. This was a first attempt and there was a learning curve in how best to do this, but we will consider this type of community outreach under Fr. Joe's guidance for the future.

7. Open Agenda Items

- John questioned the CMA numbers in the bulletin – the math was not matching the way it was written. Cathy will ask Deb about this.
- John stated that he is getting positive vibes about the altar servers.
- John also let the council know that Amy Scobie was ill and asked us to keep her in our thoughts.

8. Closing Prayer - John Culhane

Adjourn: 8:30 pm