

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes 2025-2026

Date: 05/05/2026	Time: 6:30-8:45 PM	Location: St. Malachi's Meeting Room
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Present: Kathy Burke, Jan Durkalski, Fr. Gurnick, Sr. Lizette, Brian Jecker, Sharon Lowe-Chapman, Wyatt Martin-Bensken, Charlene McElwee, Mike Pellegrino, Tom Perrego

Minutes from 04/07/2026 approved

Education: Council discussed re-establishing a Society of St. Vincent de Paul lay ministry serving both campuses under the name Mother Teresa Conference of St. Vincent DePaul. Neighboring conferences at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Ignatius of Antioch would assist with startup efforts. The ministry's focus would be providing limited, temporary assistance to persons in need. Existing funds from the St. Patrick campus conference are available to support initial efforts.

An initial meeting with SVD Director Jack Bedell was held on April 29. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Patrick Rectory Meeting Room.

Vigil Mass Update: Fr. Gurnick reviewed parish survey results regarding the location of the Vigil Mass. Twenty-three surveys were submitted, with responses fairly evenly divided between campuses. Parishioners and council members identified both benefits and challenges to relocating the summer Vigil Mass to the St. Malachi campus to utilize air conditioning, though most respondents preferred attending Mass at their home campus.

Council acknowledged lingering assumptions and resentments related to the campuses merger and recommended a prayerful, pastoral approach in making any final decision.

Note: The following minutes were compiled from notes provided by Jan Durkalski:

Terms of Council for 2026–2027: Nine of ten council members will return for the 2026–2027 term. Brian Jecker is stepping down from Parish Council creating an opening for a parishioner from St. Patrick campus. PPC will continue equal representation with five members from each campus and may continue operating under its current norms without requesting a deviation.

Council approved a nomination and election process for the open seat. Parishioners may nominate others or self-nominate. Announcements will be made at Masses, in the bulletin, and through parish email communications. Nominees should:

- Understand the consultative role of the council in serving the pastor
- Support the ongoing work of building a unified parish council
- Be in full communion with the Church
- Be an active parishioner for at least one year
- Be willing to attend ten monthly meetings annually

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Nominees will be presented to the parish, with the election scheduled for June. The new term begins in August 2026.

Chats with Council: No May sessions will be held due to Race Day, Pentecost, and Memorial Day scheduling conflicts. "Chats with Council" will instead take place June 6–7 during all coffee hours. Two PPC members will staff each session, with sign-ups coordinated by email. The event will coincide with Name Tag Weekend, during which all Mass attendees will receive name tags to encourage community building. Future Chats with Council events are planned quarterly.

Pentecost Vigil Mass — Saturday, May 23, 4:30 p.m.:

Speakers will include Lou Keim, Chris Walker, Katie Stroh, and Wyatt Martin-Bensken. A potluck reception will follow in St. Patrick Hall, coordinated by the Parish Event Commission. A SignUpGenius link for food donations will appear in the parish bulletin. The event will follow a format similar to the Pentecost Fest previously held at St. Malachi.

Pastor's Report:

Dual Campus Study: Fr. Gurnick reported that one firm has been selected from the three finalists for the Dual Campus Study. The selected company will be announced after commission members are formally notified. A preliminary meeting is planned for June to outline project needs. The firm will use a vacant classroom at St. Malachi as office space during the study process. Reservations for the St. Malachi Meeting Room should now be coordinated through Alison Alto due to increased activity in the business office.

Town hall meetings to discuss preliminary findings may occur in late August. Information has also been shared with Justin Bibb, City Council, and partner ministries including Malachi Center and Malachi House. Final reports may be available by January 2027.

Parish Fundraiser: Fr. Gurnick requested ideas for a parish-wide fall fundraiser benefiting the parish treasury. The event would involve both campuses while offering a distinct style from existing parish events, with possibilities including a fall dance or Hooley.

Reflections on Holy Week and Easter: Holy Week liturgies and the Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Malesic were well attended and well organized, with strong participation in liturgy and music ministries. The Holy Night Hike was also successful, with Christy Bartley creating participant passports that included historical information about parish buildings.

- Fr. Hollis has begun rehabilitation and may return as early as next week. He expressed gratitude for the cards and well wishes received. Volunteer drivers may be needed for transportation to physical therapy appointments.
- The bells at St. Patrick's are operational again following a \$40,000 restoration project. Programmed bell music can now be scheduled.

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- Council was also asked to pray for Fr. Jim O'Donnell, whose health is declining rapidly as he approaches the 70th anniversary of his ordination on May 17.

Next Meeting:

Date: June 2, 2026

Time: 6:30–8:30 PM

Location: St. Malachi Campus

Opening Prayer: Kathy Burke

Closing Prayer: Jan Durkalski