FINAL

St. Clare Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 4, 2026

6:30-8:00 pm, Fireside Room

ABSENT: Christine

OPENING PRAYER: Fr. Don

1. PASTOR'S REPORT: Fr. Don

- Fr. Don enjoyed his time on retreat at the Lord's Ranch near Juarez, Mexico. He spent his time at Mass, reading, walking, and enjoying social time with missionaries.
- St. Clare School: The visit from the Visiting Team resulted in a very successful accreditation at the school. Kindergarten Information Night was a success as was the Bubble Run which earned over $60,000.
- Another parish pilgrimage is in the planning stages. Greece will be the destination with a theme of "Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul." Fr. Charles Wood will accompany the pilgrims. A flyer containing the dates as well as other details will be included in an upcoming bulletin.
- Mass attendance numbers are above those from before the pandemic.

2. PASTORAL ASSOCIATE'S REPORT: Kim

- Planning has begun for the Advent/Christmas season, including a Christmas bazaar.
- Planning for the women's ACTS retreat is underway. LeAnn is on the planning team.
- A few new people have volunteered to join the Environment Committee.
- A 12-hour adoration is planned for a Tuesday in December from 7:30am to 8pm. The school students will participate.
- Six-seven people have begun the process of OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). More may be joining.
- Confirmation plans are underway.
- The first Dinner Talk of the year will be on November 12. David Villegas will be the speaker.
- Research is underway for a new data system with the capacity for communication including a directory, email, ministry scheduling, an app, etc.
- Our parish now has an Instagram account at https://www.instagram.com/stclarecatholicchurch/
- Baskets are back for the collection.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Education: (Allison)
    - The accreditation visit is complete and was a success.
    - Parent/teacher fall conferences have been completed.

    - Monthly canned food collections are underway.
- Outreach: (Marilyn)
    - Prison Ministry – There were five attendees at the recent visit.
    - Meal Services – Four new volunteers have joined the group for a total of fifteen. The kitchen at the St. Francis Dining Hall has been a problem, but the refurbishing project is almost completed. Mass is offered after dinner. Meals at St. Andre Bessette will continue, with $300 financial support from St. Clare, and there were four new volunteer sign-ups for this location at the Ministry Fair.
    - St. Vincent de Paul – There has been an increase in requests. Requests for rent assistance have recently totaled approximately $7000. At the next meeting, an immigration attorney will speak. Mary Bunday is seeking a replacement as the leader of this effort and is hoping to work with that person for a few years to make for a smooth transition.
- Community Life: (LeAnn)
    - The preschool is carrying out a coat and blanket drive for Stevens Creek Crossing, an affordable housing and sustainable community in Southwest Portland.
    - Thanksgiving food boxes – Flyers are posted as well as a sign-up for delivery drivers.
- Liturgy: (Kim)
    - A question was asked by a volunteer regarding the required arrival time for sacristans. Kim explained the reasons for early arrival.
- Giving Tuesday: (Matt shared Jim Krueger's report)
    - Fr. Don met with Pat DeKlotz of the Administrative Council to discuss this upcoming development effort set for December 1. Pat confirmed that the Giving Tuesday committee is moving "full steam ahead." Funds raised will be designated to maintaining/repairing all parish facilities, same as last year.
    - Michelle Crimmins, who led the effort last year, left detailed information for the current committee.

4. OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS: Matt

- Discussion of Parish Survey draft, including comments and questions from various PC members:
    - Length might be an issue
    - Was all of our outreach work included? (all is listed on our website)
    - Are we still hitting the mark?
    - Suggestion that PC members sit with parishioners, if requested, to assist with gathering survey responses
    - Platform might be challenging for some so a review of alternate platforms is underway.
    - Last survey was three years ago; survey will be open 3-4 weeks in January 2027

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- Giselle shared a detailed document she created: "St. Clare Parish – Analysis: Programs, Community Needs, and Opportunities" and asked for our feedback.

- Open discussion of Archbishop Sample's recent pastoral letter: "Go Therefore and Make Disciples," specifically the section titled "The Role of the Laity." A few highlights include the following:

    - We must become very intentional about handing on the faith to others.
    - When a door opens for us to share our faith, walk through it!
    - Be people of prayer.
    - Remember that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.
    - The best evangelization is not done through our words but through our daily interactions with people.
    - We must focus on the preferential option for the poor.

NEXT MEETING: January 6, 2027

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Don