

St. Thomas More Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2026

St. Thomas More – Sacred Heart Room

Call to Order – 6:50 PM by Chair Elaine Stevens; Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike Clark.

Members present: Jared Anderson, Mary Carrico, Marian Dunkerley, Alma Machaen, Dennis Quigley, Kevin Kauffeld, Elaine Stevens, Matt Wurth, Fr. Mike Clark, Fr. Basilio Az Cuc.

Unable to Attend: Gustavo Amaya, Dennis Sanders, Camille Warden, John Colgan.

Agenda Items:

1. Reports:

- a. Stewardship booklet – a chart of the plan to distribute booklets was included in the report. Follow-up to take place beginning March 15 for those whose packets are not returned. Booklets will be distributed by Parish Council members after Masses; Parish Council members to assist with phone calls to parishioners who have not responded. Elaine confirmed the booklets were printed and ready to go. Letters are being mailed to parishioners the week prior.
 - b. Parish Picnic Committee – Elaine stated that Ann Morrow would like to know what role the Parish Council will have. If the picnic is opened to the public, the beer garden would have to be eliminated. Discussion about broadening the responsibilities to the parish at large; it was agreed that the committee work should be opened to the parishioners to chair various sub-committees and each Parish Council member would serve as a point of contact but not direct the committee. The bilingual Mass was discussed; Fr. Basilio added that it would be good to encourage participation by the Hispanic community. It was suggested that this year the Welcoming Mass be held at 9 AM or another Mass in order to not add extra work to the bilingual Mass. February/March can begin a planning list and open to the parishioners.
 - c. Giving Tree Update – Elaine advised that there were 17 tags left unclaimed on the tree this year and an anonymous parishioner covered the expense for those unclaimed tags. She said this was the first year tags were left unclaimed. Fr. Basilio shared that the collection from the Our Lady of Guadalupe service covered some cost.
2. Fr. Mike – Strengthen the connection between the Parish and the school - Fr. Mike shared that conversations between pastors and the school continue. Will be discussed at January 20th Deanery meeting. The STM Finance Committee had discussed with the St. Mary Education Committee how the parish assists with tuition and conversations about the parish subsidy.
 3. STM Social Media/Mass – Fr. Mike advised there is a potential Stewardship opportunity for someone, possibly a high school student, to assist with videotaping/streaming the Mass and linking subjects to possible podcasts, website, etc.

4. Lenten Schedule – penance services, stations, coming up; a Lenten Dinner on March 3 and a Lenten Lunch on March 17.
5. Envision II Wind-Down – Fr. Mike advised there needs to be an end to the 3-year campaign. Meeting scheduled with original core group on January 29.
6. Diocesan Retirement Funding – Priest council discussed how to remedy the shortfall. Some funding from the Employee Retention Credit is being considered; the Diocese is liquidating \$4MM to help offset. Bishop Medley will send out a letter.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hispanic Bulletin – Kevin Kauffeld asked if there is a Hispanic version of the bulletin. Fr. Basilio advised they could consider translating part of it and perhaps Sr. Ophelia could assist, but it's challenging to produce an entire bulletin. They will put the Parish Picnic in Spanish. Was suggested to maybe have translators rotate once a month to help with worship aid.
2. Immigration – Fr. Mike asked Fr. Basilio if he is hearing any concerns about ICE from the Hispanic community and he said he has not heard any concerns.

Next Meeting – February 23rd

Opening Prayer – Kevin Kauffeld

Closing Prayer – Jared Anderson

Adjourn: 7:42 PM. Closing prayer – Dennis Quigley

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Dunkerley, Secretary