

ST EUGENE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

2025-2026

Asheville, NC



LOCATION: Parish Hall

DATE: January 21, 2026

TIME: 6:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Joe Stritch 6:08 pm

II. Opening Prayer – Deacon Mike

III. Welcome & Introductions –

- Father Sabastian away 1/7 –returning 2/9. 1/28 and 2/4 have no reconciliation.
- Bill Maloney attended as a parish member

IV. Approval of Minutes (12.16.25) – Joe Stritch. Terry Ryan approved, and Abel Lomeli-Garcia seconded the approval

V. Consistent 2026 Monthly Meeting Consensus – Due to Reconciliation on Wednesday, we will adjust meeting dates to another day with assistance from the church administrator to determine the best date/time. Next meeting date/time options will be forwarded to the council **for consensus**.

VI. Commission Reports

- **Buildings & Facilities** – Nathan Lawrence
 - Submitted report –
 - Hail Guards- Getting Installed, may only do 3 of the four units in question
 - Suggestion Box, Exterior Lighting- Found one light out, has been replaced. May need another light directed at the stairs. Researching a large non-operable light at day chapel.
 - Solar Panels / Critters- Got on the roof and inspected, does not appear to be any signs of animal harm.
 - Broken Pew- Repaired
 - Adoration Chapel / Pink House- Pink House is in rough shape. Exploring options for Day chapel remodel. Need an architect, designer? Budget?
- **Education & Formation** – Abel Lomeli-Garcia
 - Report Submitted. –
 - Summer Camps Camp Hidden Lake (Middle School) June 22nd – 27th; 24 Spots Available. 20 Teens and 4 Chaperones. Signups are going to open soon.
 - Camp Covecrest (High School) July 27th – August 1st; 40 Spots Available. 35 Teens and 5 Chaperones, Signups are going to open soon. Pricing \$665 per camper & chaperone. St. Eugene to only charge \$350; 2 Buses being rented (1 for each trip)
 - Remaining costs to be covered by fundraising.

- Fundraising: Pancake Breakfast with KoC; Successful first attempt! Final number to be provided by Tom soon
 - Valentine's Day Flower Bouquet Sale -\$30 per Bouquet. Place order with Amy; Place order by Feb 6th & Pick up on 13th
 - Other fundraising opportunities are being planned.
 - Racial Justice Ministry - Saints on the Way Series - Learn about Augustus Tolton, the first African American priest; January 25th between 9:15 & 11:30 masses
- **Evangelization & Communications** – Vanessa Garcia Hernandez, Betty Lynne Leary
 - The online suggestion form was set up on the website with help from the parish office staff. All online suggestions would be forwarded to Laurie for review at the monthly meetings.
- **Liturgy & Worship** – Rev. Dr. Michael Zboyovski
 - Report submitted
 - Fr. Sabastian's Nigerian Visit
 - Fr. Michael Eninlijie, MSP who is assigned in Beaumont, Texas assisted with weekday and weekend Masses from 1/8/26 through 1/22/26
 - Fr. John Pagel will assist at some weekday Masses and all weekend Masses on 1/23-24-25/2026, 1/31-2/1/2026, 2/6-7-8/2026
 - Deacons John and Mike will fill in uncommitted weekdays days with communion services
 - Preparations for hosting the Rite of Election at St. Eugene on 2/21/2026 has been initiated. We will host catechumens and candidates for continuing conversion from approximately 12 churches in our western region.
 - We will need hospitality ministers to welcome and show attendees to their designated pews
 - We will need servers for a "finger food" type reception after the service
 - Ash Wednesday is 2/18/2026
 - Preparations for Stations of the Cross celebrations are being planned
 - Fr. Roberto is being contacted to see if he will present a 1.5-2 hour Parish mission Lenten presentation to a combined Anglo/Hispanic service
 - Mary Ellen is coordinating a pot-luck Thursday Evening Lenten presentation on the Thursdays during the Lent beginning on 2/26/2026. Speakers for each gathering will be announced at a later date.
 - We have withheld the distribution of the cup at communion during the flu season. We will begin communion under both species as soon as prudently possible
 - Many Thanks to all who assisted with Christmas and post-Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and narthex.
 - **Outreach (Ecumenism)** – Ginny Raviotta
 - Report submitted
 - I have been reaching out to each ministry listed via email to assess any needs/concerns to be reported to Parish Council.
 - 1) Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte; Charities of where funds were sent. Need Father Sabastian to review.
 - 2) Catholic Relief Services (Rice Bowl)

- 3) Community Tithing- need to insure that this outreach is explained, and each charity is named in Sunday announcements.
 - 4) Ecumenical Prayer Service
 - 5) Knights of Columbus -Hosting Mexican Dinner on Friday 2/7 after 530pm Mass.
 - 6) Prison Ministry- The Chaplains Office at Craggy Correctional Center sent thanks to St. Eugene parishioners for their generosity with Christmas Treat Project
 - 7) Refugee Ministry
 - 8) Sharing Sunday- monthly focus collecting non- perishable food items as well as personal hygiene items
 - 9) Sing with Sister Anita's Friends- working to recruit new members for this ministry
 - 10) Society of St. Vincent DePaul- Actively assisting those with financial needs for rent, utilities, auto repairs, bus passes, emergency food, etc
- **Parish Life – Dr. Ellen Lawson**
 - Report Submitted
 - Representatives from Women's Guild, Knights, Bereavement, Hispanic, and St Eugene PMO ministries met to discuss the reorganization of the kitchen for more efficient use by all.
 - All agreed to the need for Standard Operating Procedures to be formulated for The Coffee Units, the Dishwasher and the Grill & Oven. These written procedures will outline proper care and use of said items, will be typed up in English & Spanish, laminated and placed near the item for all to read.
 - All agreed that we do not need to keep over 200 wine glasses in the cabinets. There are many Ministries that could use the cabinet space. Tom Kotz volunteered to look into purchasing specific boxes to store the wine glasses safely and the uniform boxes will be more easily stored. The consensus was that we will keep 36 wine glasses on hand and store the rest.
 - There was consensus that all tablecloths used by the church need to be housed in the same space, separated by size and color or delineated use.
 - We took stock of the very large items stored above the cabinets;
 - Several subjects that need more discussion and/or Administration involvement
 - ACS – Michael – no report

VII. Open Issues

- **Mission Statement Update** – Dr. Ellen Lawson, Dr. Dan Frayne, Michael MacCauley
- **Finance Committee Update** – Joe Stritch –Dan requests a report from Finance Committee- to submit a report 4 x a year for the council and to the parish 2 x a year. Asked for collection totals in the bulletin weekly. Joe to discuss with Father Sabastian. Last Council report was September 2025. Last Quarterly meeting was in November. Recommend to follow the diocese guidance for reporting. Diocese audit was conducted in July 2025.
- **Confession** – Requested clarification on times posted in our bulletin. Notice on website. Announce in mass. Joe to talk to Denise – next week's bulletin and ad to website.

VIII. New Business – Suggestion Box -Laurie Zone-Smith

1. Ginny offered a verbal suggestion offered to her that was not formally submitted. After daily mass, group pray as a group outload, disturbing people who want private prayer.

2. I would like to suggest to our Pastor that he get some personal training in phonetics so that we can understand what he is saying. Many people are having trouble understanding the homilies and other things. His English is fine; it's the pronunciation. English is official language of Nigeria. And people from Nigeria have an accent similar to the US. Joe to share with Father.

3. Joe Wheeler – “I propose that St. Eugene’s Catholic Church adopt a Catholic Church Community in Nigeria. Why? To put into action our love and support for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing persecution and death that rivals the early Church in Roman time. In addition, our actions would honor Father Sebastian and all our priests from Africa who minister to us with joyful service and devotion to Jesus and his Church. I would be happy to serve on a committee to make this happen.” Joe to review with Father. parish suggestion.

Inclement weather – Father Sabastian wanted to continue masses. Deacon will talk with Father Pagel about his ability to be here and advisement of cancelation if needed. Michele has blast email to parishioners. WRAL posting. Voice message from office if mass is canceled.

Next Council meeting: Reconciliation every Wednesday 6:00-7:00. Need to change the date of the parish council meeting. No Tuesday. Thursday – not the 3rd Thursday. See what Michele’s calendar has for these days. Will see if 1 Thursday a month is available in Narthex or the school to offer space. Joe will check these options.

Father Doug back in NC in Shallotte. Anniversary of ordination weekend of 6th and 7th of June, 49th, pastor in Shallotte having a celebration. If interested in attending contact Ellen.

Next meeting: Joe will notify the council of next meeting.

IX. Closing Prayer – Deacon Mike -

X. Adjournment – Joe Stritch at 7:51pm