



**Saint Gabriel Catholic Church
Pastoral Council
Thursday, May 28, 2026**

Attendance: Father James Boachie, Deacon John Blakeney, Nancy Wilson, Carroll Connolly, Lourdes Mosley, Eileen Violante, Stephanie Cochran, Kathy Zehender, Clay Bigelow, Richard Purdy, and Lisa Gorton

Absent: Tom Tortoriello and John Ambe

Meeting Venue: In-person, parish office meeting space

Opening Prayer: Fr. James led the opening prayer

February Meeting Minutes - Approved

Old Business:

Strategic Plan Revisions

- Need to check page numbering on pdf that it is consistent with how it prints
- No edits needed
- We are at step #5 - we need to communicate the plan to the parish
- Will need to add graphics before ready to publish
- After that we need to look at how to meet objectives - small teams to be focused on these
- Pastoral and Finance Councils with staff need to determine implementation of the plan and keep us dedicated to meeting the objectives
- Also consider how to help parishioners determine their giftedness – reintroduce spiritual gifts inventory. Also, there is the Gallup Strengths Finder.
- Fr. James will be at the Diocese and ask how best to promulgate to the parish then he will meet with Nancy to finalize.

Parish Mission Next Steps

- At Joint Councils meeting on Thurs. June 11, 7 pm we will share answers to following three questions:
 - What is one thing you feel that the parish did well this year?
 - What is one thing the parish can improve upon for next year?
 - What is one thing you have taken from reading Rebuilt or attending the Parish Mission?

Redemption and Status of Formation Center

- Commitment to pledges is going well
- We await the building permit and hope for diocese to greenlight groundbreaking after first of the year
- On weekend of May 16/17 Jodi gave a presentation on status. Consensus of council is about his presentation

- Asking Jodi to serve as the parishioner liaison on the building project and share updates with the community on an ongoing basis

Fundraising Activities

- Parish has one annual fundraiser - Casino Night on Sept. 25. We encourage all council members to participate and invite others to attend

New Parish/Visitor Recognition

- New Parishioner/Visitor Table is designated at Fellowship so parishioners can easily identify and introduce themselves to those who are new to the parish.
- The prayer leader and liturgical ministers are encouraged to make a point of visiting the table to welcome them, which seems to be happening at 5:30 pm. Heather Bigelow is at the 9 and 11 am Mass and makes a point to greet them, answering any questions they have
- Suggestion to go back to asking those who are new or visiting to stand so we can greet them. We found in the past few did so and those who did were rarely greeted after Mass by parishioners
- Suggestion to highlight new families by placing their picture and names in the bulletin. They would submit a photo when registering online, and give permission to publish names and where they come from with photo
- Suggestion that council members can all be on the lookout for new faces and welcome them

Youth Mass

- Participation in the liturgy by youth is increasing.
- We appeal to the parents to sacrifice the time for their youth to be active in the liturgy.

Children Liturgy of the Word

- We now are near full coverage: we just need one adult at 9 am and one at 11 am for one weekend of the month
- Children are very enthusiastic and involved in the Liturgy of the Word
- Success of this program has lead to greater numbers at Vacation Bible School this year, nearly doubling in number

T-Shirt Sales

- As of May 28 – 23 orders of 58 shirts (last year sold 115 shirts)
- Recommend reminder go out to parish in email (took place on Friday)

Charismatic Prayer Group

- Flourishing in many dioceses
- Bishop gave his approval to start one here at parish but asked Fr. James to guide the group
- Includes prayer, bible study, music
- We need to support group to flourish

Pastor Update:

Confirmation Mass 2027

- We now have larger numbers for Confirmation
- We will host the Confirmation Mass in 2027

Safety Talk in May

- Well received and common-sense information

Highlight Groups in Parish

- We need to encourage the group in our parish to help them grow

- Will feature one group a weekend, allowing them to speak before Mass and have table in Commons after Mass

Fr. James Vacation

- In July Fr. James will be out of country to visit Ghana
- Monsignors Miller and Barrett will cover with Deacon John assisting

30th Anniversary 2027

- Fr. James is forming a three-member committee to plan

New Business:

Facilitators for Ministries

- Seeking mentorship of new leadership with rotation on facilitators
- Guide and grow new leaders
- This should be a phased plan, so it is not abrupt change throughout ministries and causes concern

September Parish Celebrations

- Sept. 5/6 – Fellowship Weekend
- Sept. 12 – Parish Retreat
- Sept. 18/19 – Bless all Catechists for Catechetical Sunday
- Sept. 25 – Casino Night
- Oct. 4 – Parish Picnic

Recognize Retiring Pastoral Council Member

- Richard Purdy served the council over two terms and six years sharing his insights into the parish and helping to guide us to where we are today. We are greatly appreciative of his gift of time and wisdom.
- Nancy Wilson has been asked to continue to serve as chair for third term to mentor new council leadership.

New Ideas/Comments from Council Members

Important Dates in the Parish Calendar

June 6/7 – Fellowship Weekend

June 15 -20 – Vacation Bible School

July – No fellowship weekend being 4th of July holiday

Aug. 1/2 – Fellowship Weekend

Sept 5/6 – Fellowship Weekend

Sept. 12 – Parish Retreat

Sept. 17 – Executive Pastoral Council Meeting

Sept. 24 – Pastoral Council Meeting

Sept. 25 - Casino Night

Oct. 4 – Parish Picnic

Closing Prayer/Blessing – Deacon John

Next Council Meeting: Thurs. Sept. 24, 7 pm, office meeting room

Joint Councils Meeting: Thurs. June 11, 7 pm, church meeting room