



Minutes for the Holy Savior Pastoral Council meeting
4:30 pm, Monday, January 29, 2026
Rectory

Pastoral Council Attendees:

Shannon Glover, chair
Laura Koch
Patrick Mooney

Tom Puiia
Catherine Napolitano-Ross

Other Attendees:

Fr. Aaron Damboise, Pastor

Deacon Rodney Kuhl
Linda Pepin, Office Assistant

Fr. Aaron opened the meeting with prayer at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Tom Puiia moved to accept the minutes from the 22 Sept 2025 meeting.
Rodney Kuhl seconded.

VOTE: Motion carried (unanimous). Minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Knights of Columbus update

Deacon Rod, Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus Council #2091, provided an update. The Knights' raffles have brought in significant funds, and they have three new members—the first in a couple years. They are preparing now for an Easter Basket raffle with a drawing March 29th.

There will be no parish breakfast on Easter Sunday; that breakfast will be a week earlier on Palm Sunday (29 March).

The Knights sponsored a free throw contest on 18 Jan, and had 7 or 8 children participate, all of whom are advancing to district level. The Knights will promote the event more next year and are also considering a similar soccer challenge.

The Knights have placed at both churches kiosks with booklets explaining the Catholic faith. People are encouraged to take the books with them.

Daughters of Isabella update

Catherine Napolitano-Ross gave an update on Daughters of Isabella initiatives. The Daughters awarded three college scholarships this past year, with all three providing grades showing successful completion of their first semester. In addition, this year the Robert Gilbert family in

recognition of Gladys Kaulback Gilbert has committed to funding an additional \$1,000 scholarship each year for the next five years, to be awarded to a student pursuing a medical career field.

The D of I have done fundraising with the wheelbarrow and chocolate tree raffles at the Christmas Fair. They have also raised more than \$1,700 through an ongoing bottle drive at Ralph's in Rumford, the proceeds of which have been used to benefit area youth, for example, funding free use of batting cages at GRCC and some funds for youth floor hockey.

The Daughters also purchased eight children's books explaining the Mass; the books are at the two churches for use by children attending Mass. Others in attendance commented that children have really enjoyed the books.

Catherine mentioned that the Daughters have discussed having a fundraising dinner after a Mass. It would need to be on a Sunday, as AA meets in the hall on Saturday evenings. The Daughters are also considering changing their meeting time to after a Sunday Mass, as the current Tuesday evening meetings are a barrier to those who don't drive at night.

Father Aaron noted the Daughters and Knights are doing great things in our community.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on how to engage younger members

Fr. Aaron gave a recap of current initiatives aimed at younger members: Family Fun nights once a month have been a success, with average of 15-20 attending; Youth Ministry Bible Study on Saturday mornings (2 high school, 4 older elementary); Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday mornings, with a children's translation of the scriptures; working with children/youth on altar serving; welcoming young people in the choir; and regular Faith Formation (none making sacraments this year). Trunk or Treat went well for a first year, and the parents who went really appreciated it.

Fr. Aaron noted we are slowly but surely building events to give younger families a way to connect and welcomed additional suggestions, which included a movie night (perhaps with free Formed resources), and a hike with Mass at the peak.

Homeschooling

Fr. Aaron noted first Friday Masses for homeschoolers have been impacted by poor weather, but observed there have been more homeschool families at Mass. It is not clear how large the homeschool population is.

OTHER ITEMS

Lent

Fr. Aaron reported we are maintaining our regular Lent activities, including:

- Ash Wednesday Masses at OLS (9 a.m.) and St. A & J (6 pm)
- Friday Stations of the Cross (4:30 pm) followed by Soup for the Soul (meatless potluck)
- Monday Stations of the Cross (7 pm)
- Plus...Monday Adult formation (5-week series: A Biblical Walk through the Mass, videos/discussion, 6:30 pm, beginning 23 Feb)

Tuesdays with Thelma

Deacon Rod stated that the monthly “Tuesdays with Thelma” shared meals will continue, but Thelma may not always be there.

Alpha

Fr. Aaron advised that people are still signing up for Alpha, which will be Sunday nights.

Immigrant population

Fr. Aaron noted OLS usually has an increase of tourists in the winter and also seasonal workers here on work visas. This year, he hasn't seen that population at church, so he is quietly reaching out to employers of immigrants to let them know we are here to meet spiritual and practical needs. He noted other parishes have established ministries for immigrants, and the recent parish survey highlighted concern that immigrants in our area are invisible. Laura suggested the Bethel family health center may be a place to share information, and Shannon said the Bethel food pantry may also have some contact. Fr. Aaron noted it is not a large population, but we want to reach out. He will connect with Fr. Greenleaf in Lewiston who has more experience in this area.

Scam attempts

Laura said there appeared to be an attempted scam posted in a comment on Sunday's livestream, but she is not able to delete/hide the comment. Linda did so. She will advise the office if similar situation comes up. Fr. Aaron also said a bulletin advertiser was targeted with a fraudulent text message purporting to be from Fr. Aaron. He reminded people to verify the source before doing any giving.

Porters

Tom noted recent unrest including a protest at a church and asked why the porter ministry ended. Fr. Aaron stated there were some issues making it so that the porter ministry in place could unfortunately no longer continue. Tom asked about a rotating schedule for a person who watches entrances, saying a couple people have asked about it. Fr. Aaron said in the instance where protesters were in a church, it was because the pastor was also a DHS employee; there is no track record of ICE going into churches, and protests are usually at the Cathedral to get the bishop's attention. He said there are individuals he knows of at each Mass who informally keep awareness.

Next meetings:

- 16 March 2026 – to include an update from Worship & Spirituality committee
- (There will likely be an interim meeting/workshop to preview the budget.)
- 15 June 2026 – approve budget; update from Buildings & Grounds and Cemetery committees

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pepin
Office Assistant (Ex-officio)