



Minutes for the Holy Savior Pastoral Council meeting
4:30 pm, Monday, April 6 (Rescheduled from March 16)
Rectory

Pastoral Council Attendees:

Shannon Glover, Chair
Sharon Gates
Laura Koch
Patrick Mooney
Catherine Napolitano-Ross

Other Attendees:

Fr. Aaron Damboise, Pastor
Diane Breton, Catechetical Leader
Linda Pepin, office assistant

The meeting opened at 4:30 pm with prayer by Fr. Aaron.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Laura Koch made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29 meeting. Sharon Gates seconded.

VOTE: Motion carried (unanimous). Minutes approved.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Formation

- Fr. Aaron spoke about Eric Knowles, a retired social worker and parishioner, who has been researching the formation of a St. Vincent de Paul Society conference at the parish. The society would train volunteers (Vincentians) to visit indigent community members, assess needs, provide companionship, prayer support, and connect people to resources like case management and mental health services.
- This would be the first official St. Vincent de Paul conference in the Diocese of Portland, functioning as an independent nonprofit under the national organization's umbrella.
- One-day training is scheduled for August in Lewiston. Anticipate the group will need four board members plus 4-6 volunteers initially.
- Services would be available to both Catholics and non-Catholics, and volunteers need not be Catholic.
- It was noted this is likely to pull from the same pool of volunteers as the existing organizations within the parish.

Worship & Spirituality Committee Updates

- The new digital organ was installed last week after a three-month delay; the vendor mistakenly delivered a higher-end amplification system worth \$10,000 more and allowed the parish to keep it as compensation for the wait.
- Divine Mercy Sunday celebration is planned for April 12th (second Sunday of Easter) includes adoration & confession 2-3 PM, Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 PM, with light refreshments afterwards.

- Eucharistic procession planned for Corpus Christi (Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ) on June 7.
- A Vatican exhibition of Eucharistic miracles will be displayed in the parish hall on June 7.

Graduation Mass Scheduling

- Graduation Mass scheduled for June 7 conflicts with the Eucharistic miracles exhibition (the parish hall will not be available for breakfast).
- The council discussed moving to May 31 (pending cap and gown availability) or June 14 as alternatives. June 14 is after graduation and was therefore not a viable alternative.
- The graduation Mass typically has the highest attendance of the year, exceeding Easter and Christmas.

Religious Education Programs

- Diane Breton reported there are three children in the two-year sacramental preparation program; no confirmations scheduled this year.
- Family Fun Night averages 7-14 children. Summer Family Fun Nights will be planned to include outdoor such as a hike.
- Bible study continues for middle and high school students; all students expressed interest in continuing next year.
- Three adults remain in OCIA (formerly RCIA) for ongoing formation despite already being confirmed, because they want to continue learning. Several adults are anticipating fall enrollment.
- A catechetical leader mentor advised developing a pre-catechetical program for younger children to build foundation before formal catechesis.
- Diane also proposed a weekly bulletin series on the Ten Commandments with age-appropriate examination of conscience questions for families.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** preparation underway; Donna Gilbert will assist and Dierdre Mooney will handle kitchen/snacks; still need volunteers to head music and games. VBS dates are 17-21 August this year.

Community Outreach Initiatives

- Shannon Glover noted she set up Earth Day cleanup in town last year, but has had other focus and forgot this year. She recommended individuals do litter pick-up, and offered to provide safe disposal boxes needle/sharps safety.
- Suggestion to organize a parish group cleanup on the weekend of April 20th or earlier, though too late for bulletin announcement. No action taken.

Fall Events Planning

- **Block party** proposed but deferred to 2027 due to ongoing construction at adjacent senior living facility.
- **Trunk-or-Treat** planned for Halloween 2026: Shannon reported that Richie Philbrick indicated Knights of Columbus are interested in leading the event.
 - Halloween falls on Saturday, October 31st; discussed and decided to hold Trunk-or-Treat on Friday the 30th to avoid conflict with Saturday AA meeting and Saturday 4 pm Mass parking needs.

Liturgical Education Request

- Laura requested more information in bulletins about liturgical choices (which Eucharistic Prayer, why Gloria/Alleluia are omitted during Lent/Advent, etc.).
- Discussion noted not all parishioners understand liturgical seasons and the reasons for variations.
- Fr. Aaron agreed to include Eucharistic Prayer information and explanations for seasonal liturgical changes in the bulletin's Mass information section.

Incense Usage Feedback

- Sharon Gates noted she was out of country when parish survey results were published. Survey results indicated more than half of respondents want less incense use, particularly at non-OLS Masses. She noted that previously incense was only used at funerals, and if it's used in procession it doesn't help to sit in the back.
- There was discussion regarding some with difficulty breathing during Saturday evening Mass when altar servers used lots of incense.
- Fr. Aaron noted he tried different incense types; the rose-scented incense used Sunday morning at Easter was better received.

Other

Fr. Aaron expressed gratitude for the community's support during his mother's recent passing and acknowledged the parish's resilience and growth over his five years as pastor.

Next Meetings:

- **16 April 2026** (4:30 pm) – Finance Council/Pastoral Council Budget workshop
- **15 June 2026** (4:30 pm) – Regular meeting: approve budget; update from Buildings & Grounds & Cemetery committees

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pepin
Office Assistant