

St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

January 20, 2026

Opening Prayers

The Parish Council meeting opened with our traditional faith sharing and prayers. The Gospel for the upcoming weekend liturgies for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time was read aloud and reflected on by each individual Council member. Personal intercessions were prayed.

Faith Sharing and Formation

Parish Council members all engaged in personal and shared reflections based on Group Reflection Questions developed in conjunction with Bishop Malesic's *Pastoral Letter, A Flourishing Apostolic Church*. The focus questions addressed Part II, pages 4-6, Friendship with God:

Would you describe your relationship with God as a friendship?
How so, or why not?

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Bill Blough acknowledged the accommodation of all to participate in this evening meeting online given the unrelenting snow and cold that makes travel hazardous for an in-person meeting.

Council's meeting minutes for October 21, 2025 were approved to be posted on the St. Christopher Parish website.

Parish Council

Deanery Meeting

Council members are asked to attend a 1-hour meeting with the designated Dean for our Parish, who acts as the Bishop's representative.

Friday, January 23, 2026

7:00 PM

The Dean will be hosting a succession of individual meetings on the 23rd with Parish staff, School staff, the Priests, and Parish Councils. St. Christopher Finance Council and Parish Pastoral Council will meet with the Dean at 7; the meeting will not include the Pastor or any Parish staff. The Dean's role is to take the pulse of the Parish – attentive to what needs improvement, what needs to be changed, and what the Parish is doing well. This will be the first Dean assessment that will be done every three years.

Parish Council members are reminded to complete the emailed survey in advance of the meeting.

Mission Statement

We are the people of St. Christopher Catholic Church, a Eucharistic community of faith dedicated to . . .

Welcome, Celebrate, Care & Grow. . . . in the image and likeness of Jesus.

Donut Sunday

The next Donut Sunday will be February 8th after the 8:30 and 10:00 Sunday morning Masses. Volunteers to offer hospitality will be needed. Bill Blough will send out a request to commit in advance of the 8th.

Liturgical Ministers Retreat Day

A Retreat Day for all who minister at Mass is scheduled for:

Saturday, February 7, 2026

10:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Those invited include Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Hospitality/Ushers, Cantors, Choir Members and Funeral Servers. To date 22 people have registered. Registration remains open online at the Parish website www.StChrisParish.com or by email to Gayle Cilimburg.

Parish Pillars: Worship, Evangelize, Serve

Parish Council determined that the three pillars of Parish life warrant focused attention and leadership in steering Council more effectively as a group. Accordingly, three individuals on Council have agreed to serve in leadership roles:

Worship – Kathy Rohn

Evangelization – Sarah Rish

Service – Julie Mallett

Parish Council members will actively participate in one or more of the three groups. Council members are asked to provide Bill Blough a prioritization of the three groups in order of personal preference for participation. Once the groups are established, the Bishop's Pastoral Letter will be used as the basis for setting group goals. There will be a focus on Parish activities and the identification of other opportunities.

Parish Council Pillar Groups will have a Parish Staff liaison to lend support:

Worship – Father Lito Clemen

Evangelization – Marianne Brooks

Service – Deacon Mike Hayes

Father John's Update

Capital Campaign

- The Diocesan Capital Campaign is ramping up now. St. Christopher is one of ten pilot parishes. 4 Parishes will be meeting on Monday, January 26th at St. Christopher Parish. Another group of pilot parishes will be meeting at St. Basil Parish in Brecksville.
- The Diocesan campaign goal is \$200 M. 50% will be distributed to the Parishes. Funds retained by the Diocese will be used for Catholic Charities, regional facilities, the Cathedral, and the seminary.

- \$1.6 M is the goal for St. Christopher Parish. 80% of any proceeds more than goal will be distributed to the Parish. Parish projects under consideration for capital spending include:
 - New roofs on the Parish Center and other buildings on the Church property. The 25-year-old roofs have a projected replacement cost of \$800,000.
 - Gifting to St. Christopher School for replacement and upgrades of fixtures and furniture that are in need. Given the upcoming 100th anniversary of St. Christopher School, the time is right.
 - New pews and kneelers in the Church. Cost estimates have yet to be garnered.

Early gifting has St. Christopher Parish approaching 50% of goal attainment already. Fr. John recognized the Parish's "overwhelming good fortune."

- Parish Business Manager
 - The transition to Julie Rutkowski is well underway. New to her portfolio as a Parish Business Manager is the additional responsibilities of St. Christopher School business. Her short-term predecessor found herself overwhelmed by the job demands.
- Parish Office Manager
 - Dawn Bloom has given two months advance notice of her intended retirement on March 1st.
 - Quality applicants to assume the position are actively sought and needed now.
- Parish Center sectional room walls
 - The walls that divide the space to make it more versatile and functional were deemed to need repair, not replacement. Accordingly, a "low cost" solution was found to remedy the situation and divide the space.
- Lent
 - Ash Wednesday begins Lent on Wednesday, February 18th.

Concluding Comments

Additional agenda suggestions are welcome.

Kathy Rohn volunteered to lead our Closing Prayer in February.

Closing Prayer and Mission Statement

Cheryl Selak offered our Closing Prayer. Reading and reflection of the Parish Mission Statement concluded the meeting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Parish Center.

Parishioners are welcome to attend the Council meeting including Prayer, Faith Sharing and Formation. Personal faith sharing is treated with confidentiality by all.