

## St. Christopher Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

February 17, 2026

### **Opening Prayers**

The Parish Council meeting opened with our traditional faith sharing and prayers. The Gospel for the upcoming weekend liturgies for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 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:

- What do you think of the Bishop's idea to add a daily Mass to your schedule once a week?
- Who have been the models of faith in your life? How have they shared their faith with you?

### **Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Bill Blough welcomed all to this evening's meeting, noting the relative success of our online meeting in January prompted by bad weather. Bill Blough introduced Marilyn Kysela who is a member of the St. Christopher Finance Council; Marilyn shared a bit about her background. In turn, each Council member took the opportunity to give a personal introduction to Marilyn Kysela.

Council's meeting minutes for January 20, 2026 were approved to be posted on the St. Christopher Parish website.

### **Parish Council**

#### Donut Sunday

Sunday, March 8, 2026 – after the 8:30 and 10:00 Masses

Bill Blough will send an email to Council members to serve as volunteer hosts for the March event. Council volunteers are encouraged to participate and extend hospitality to parishioners. The level of engagement that the Knights of Columbus had with parishioners at the February Donut Sunday was noted as worthy of serving as a model for Council members. The K of C members showed real enthusiasm for meeting and greeting parishioners.

The March Donut Sunday will feature St. Christopher School students who are participating in the upcoming SCS theatrical presentation. The student-actors will attend in costume to highlight their upcoming play and encourage Parish-wide attendance.

#### **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.

Also, Girl Scouts will be on hand eager to sell their Girl Scout cookies.

### Liturgical Ministers Retreat Day

The February 7<sup>th</sup> gathering of Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Hospitality/Ushers, Cantors, Choir Members and Funeral Servers – all who minister at Mass – was acknowledged to have been a day of thoughtful reflection for all who attended.

Gathering and blessing those who participated at the 5 PM Saturday Mass served to effectively show the assembly how many volunteers are involved and needed for the weekly liturgies.

### Parish Pillars: Worship, Evangelize, Serve

The apportionment of Council members and their Staff Liaisons are now established based on Council and Staff personal preferences.

<b><i>Pillar of Faith:</i></b>	<b><i>Worship</i></b>	<b><i>Evangelization</i></b>	<b><i>Service</i></b>
Council Leadership:	Kathy Rohn	Sarah Rish	Julie Mallett
Staff Liaison:	Fr. Lito Clemen	Deacon Mike Hayes	Marianne Brooks Pastoral Associate
Council Participants:	Bill Blough Ken Szabo Cheryl Selak Mary Horvath	Bill Blough Al Melton Jim Moran	Bill Blough Bonnie Twitchell Chris Rosati

Over time Bishop Malesic's Pastoral Letter, ***A Flourishing Apostolic Church***, will be used as the basis for setting group goals focused on their Pillar of Faith.

For now, each group will promote existing Parish activities and consider creating new opportunities within their chosen Pillar of Faith – Worship, Evangelization and Service.

### March Meeting Date

Bill Blough questioned the scheduling of our next Council meeting on the evening of St. Patrick's Day. There was no expressed enthusiasm for changing the meeting date.

### **Father John's Update**

#### Diocesan Capital Campaign

More information will be coming soon with the Diocesan announcement of the capital campaign.

As a pilot parish, St. Christopher has begun early solicitations and is now close to having committed \$1 M of the \$1.6 M goal. Father John acknowledges the generosity of parishioners.

### Deanery Meeting Feedback

Father Latcovich's assessment of St. Christopher Parish as Dean on behalf of Bishop Malesic is complete. After meetings with Parish staff, School staff, the Priests, and Parish Councils the Parish "passed with flying colors" with the Dean pleased with the state of the Parish. The review process will be conducted every three years.

One recommendation made is the need for Parish sacramental records to be stored in a fireproof cabinet. This matter will be remedied.

The Deanery meeting with Finance Council and Parish Pastoral Council on February 23<sup>rd</sup> served to demonstrate the prospective value of bridging the two Councils once it was realized that the two Councils' members do not know each other. Accordingly, Bill Blough will follow up with the Finance Council to develop a rotational exchange. Finance Council meetings are scheduled monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. The meetings are conducted online, begin at 8 AM, and typically last for 30 minutes – longer as necessary, e.g., during budget preparation. There are six parishioners who serve on the Parish Finance Council together with Father John and Julia Rutkowski, Business Manager. As a start, Marilyn Kysela on behalf of the Finance Council attended and participated in this evening's Parish Pastoral Council meeting.

### SCP Weekend

Friday – Sunday, August 28 – 30, 2026

The Weekend planning will be headed up by Sharon Armstrong and Alex DiMichele, both of whom have been actively involved over the years.

Kevin Tennant will step away from his past involvement. Family and work commitments consume more of his time. Father John acknowledged Kevin Tennant's past leadership commitment.

### Lent

Stations of the Cross will be offered on Fridays during Lent.

Eucharistic Adoration will be offered on the first Friday in March – March 6, 2026. Pope Leo is encouraging Eucharistic Adoration observance.

### **Concluding Comments**

Additional agenda suggestions are welcome.

Deacon Mike Hayes volunteered to lead our Closing Prayer in March.

### **Closing Prayer and Mission Statement**

Bill Blough offered our Closing Prayer. Reading and reflection of the Parish Mission Statement concluded the meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 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.