

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

St. Basil's Church – October 6, 2025

Attendance

The following were present at the meeting: Father Adolphus, Susan Fekete, Peter Veselovsky, Jean-Paul Ruszkowski, Jennifer Leddy and Greg Mathieu.

Regrets: Lindsay Moore-Chung

Opening Activities

Greg Mathieu welcomed all to the meeting and then led the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the September 22, 2025 meeting which had been previously distributed in draft form were brought forward for approval.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the September 22, 2025 meeting of the Pastoral Council be approved.

Moved by: Jean-Paul Ruszkowski
Approved

Seconded by: Jennifer Leddy

Business Arising from the Minutes – The Chair will forward them to Judy Young who will see to their posting on the website and provided to the parish office administration.

Themes & Priorities – Pastor and Council

The discussion followed from the initial meeting of the Council at which each member was asked to bring forward their thoughts on what could be the main objectives of the new Pastoral Council in support of the parish mission. In summary, sustainability was felt to be an agreed upon objective although how it would best be manifested in its temporal and spiritual sense needed more discussion and review of the findings of the parish synodal process.

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Father Adolphus noted that the Ottawa-Cornwall Diocese, in May of this year, developed a vision statement that may serve as a more defined theme with its recognition of the synodal process and the specific needs of the diocese. After further reflection and a more comprehensive explanation from Father Adolphus, the Council agreed to adopt the theme of Go Out – Go Deep – Go Together and to share that with the Ministries, Committees and organizations within our parish.

In a summary way of explanation, the theme encourages our parish to **GO OUT** – to help others know, love and serve the Lord, **GO DEEP** – through enthusiastic engagement, growth, and healing and **GO TOGETHER** - united in Mission and desire to respond to the needs of this generation and those to come (Vision Letter Attached).

While each of these areas will be built out more robustly over time, the Council and the Pastor share the belief that the establishment of a Youth Ministry / Faith Formation resource that focuses on building the presence of youth in our parish, is urgently needed. As such, the Council will look to developing the plan to implement this initiative and the resources needed to support its success.

A further point was noted that many of the existing Ministries and Committees could help shine a light on youth engagement through collaboration and sharing of their resources and expertise. While it would be a goal to have more volunteers in all areas to help with the various programs and activities, collaboration between existing groups can also bring synergy to the desired goal.

A final point in this area was the shared view that parishes, in general, can become isolated and walled off from other ideas and ways of supporting their parishioners. A defined approach to how St. Basil's liaises with other parishes, perhaps other religions, deserves further reflection and planning on the part of the Council.

Finance Council Liaison

As the appointed Pastoral Council liaison with the Finance Council (FC), Greg Mathieu attended the finance meeting on September 23, 2025.

Finance Council reviewed the collections to date noting that they had been ahead of the previous year in all months except August, which was 17% behind. The FC will continue to monitor the collections to ensure that the upward trend, which supports increased operating costs, is maintained.

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The FC recognized Jim Shields who is stepping down from many years heading the Premises Committee. These many years of service are appreciated by the parish. Jim will remain on the FC at this time, and his Premises duties will be assumed by André St. Jacques who is also a member of the FC.

There are a variety of projects within the umbrella of the Under One Roof Campaign, some requiring immediate attention and others that are planned for the near future to ensure the physical plant of the church can meet the needs of the parish community. Without going into detail, such things as exterior lighting, electrical upgrading, drainage / leakage around rectory building in addition to the largest project, the new roof were all discussed in the context of the capital fundraising campaign. This will be reported on more fully by the FC.

The process for developing the 2026 parish budget was set out with the deadline for submissions being mid-November with a final budget meeting of the FC set for November 26th. The budget agreed to by the FC at that time would be presented to the Pastor for his approval and submission to the Diocese.

New Business

The Pastoral Council members agreed that Sunday, October 26th mass would be the date for the introduction and blessing of the members.

The Anniversary Photo Group picture was discussed with each of the October and November dates seeing members of the Council not available. We will try to have group photo taken on October 26th that will meet the standard for the directory.

Father Adolphus noted receipt of a letter from the Diocese regarding matters that required attention to the privacy of those involved. He sought the input of the Council on those matters and is now better able to respond to the letter he received in his early days as the Parish Priest.

Closing

The meeting concluded with Father Adolphus once again expressing his appreciation to the Council members for their willingness to serve the parish community in this fashion. He then led the meeting in a closing prayer.



Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall

Vision

(May 15, 2025)

With the conviction that God takes the initiative in all things, we choose to trust fully in His grace and loving plans for the future of the Roman Catholic Church of Ottawa-Cornwall.

In the face of today's challenges, we boldly commit ourselves to motivating, equipping and mobilizing Catholic communities around a common vision, so that our Church responds to the Mission received from the risen Lord to be His witnesses to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8). With the power of the Holy Spirit, we will become a Church that **goes out** to help others know, love, and serve the Lord, **goes deep** in our relationship with Christ, and **goes together** in communion and faith.

GO OUT: The Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall is called to be a missional Church that creates opportunities for all to encounter Jesus and His Love in a world that desperately needs him where....

- Mission is at the heart of every parish's pastoral activity, enabling the baptized to witness to Christ and courageously follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- We take every opportunity to welcome people, to proclaim the Gospel and to experience the power of faith.
- We are innovative and effective in helping others experience and respond to God's love for them.
- We manifest the love and mercy of God in our service of others.
- We reach out in response to people's authentic temporal and spiritual needs using the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

GO DEEP: We are called to be a Church where people encounter Christ and choose to follow Him through a journey of initial and ongoing conversion where....

- In authentic Catholic communities, faith is nourished by the Eucharist and the Word of God, vibrant celebration of the sacraments, ongoing Christian formation, and personal prayer.
- Disciples are formed, equipped and supported to live their faith and to become witnesses of Christ. Rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus, they experience freedom, meaning in their lives, deep joy, and the promise of eternal life.



- Our parishes are places of enthusiastic engagement, growth, and healing where people regularly share testimonials of how God is powerfully at work.
- We recognize Christ in the poor and suffering, and we courageously seek His wisdom, reconciliation, healing, and hope.
- We see many examples of people responding to God's call, including vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, marriage, and religious or consecrated life.

GO TOGETHER: We are called to be a Church that is deeply faithful to the Gospel, the Truth and the Tradition in the fullness of our Catholic faith. We are united in Mission and diverse in our expressions of faith in each context, whether linguistic, cultural or geographic where....

- The people of God are proactive and prophetic servant leaders, supporting the clergy, families, parishes, schools, and other Catholic groups in fulfilment of their mission.
- Plans, decisions, structures, assets, systems and resources reflect the Vision of the archdiocese and are aligned with the Mission through prayerful discernment.
- Difficult choices are made that allow us to become a vibrant and healthy Church.
- There is a fresh mindset of cooperation among the various parishes, rites, churches, ministries, apostolates, religious communities, and groups to respond to the needs of this generation and those to come.

As we journey towards the great jubilee of 2033, two thousand years since Christ's death and resurrection, we strive to bring to life this Vision of a missionary Church, rooted in Christ and unified in the Holy Eucharist.

Taking to heart Christ's great commission to go make disciples (Matt. 28:19-20), we are each called to use our many gifts and talents to play a unique part in building the Kingdom of God.

How will you respond to the call?

✠ Marcel Damphousse
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall