

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

St. Basil's Church – September 16, 2026

Attendance

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

Invited: Knights of Columbus: Pat Latimer & John De Bruyn

Opening Activities

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

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting which had been previously distributed in draft form and subsequently revised were brought forward for approval.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting of the Pastoral Council be approved.

Moved by: Jennifer Leddy Seconded by: Jean-Paul Ruszkowski
Approved

Review of Notes June 22, 2026 Joint Meeting with Finance Council

In addition to the dialogue between the two Councils a couple of items were focused on.

FC Michelle Gleeson and Andre St Jacques briefed council members on both the current year financial situation and the Under One Roof initiative. Michelle provided members with the detailed Income Statement and Balance Sheet as at the end of May 2026.

PC Greg presented to council members some of the key Pastoral priorities. He briefed on the Youth Minister current situation, Safe Environment coordinator, attendance trends, the Care for Creation Project and the planned Disciple Maker Index survey plan of the archdiocese.

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Social Housing on Parish Property Introduction

Father Adolphus was approached in the past month regarding a planned initiative of the archdiocese to join the national effort on housing issues and homelessness. At this very preliminary stage the parish liaison with the archdiocese was Jean-Paul Ruszkowski who briefed the Council on what information has been shared with him to date.

Jean-Paul noted that the archdiocese is discussing their interest in a joint venture with a developer to build social housing on the property of existing parishes. The archdiocese is reaching out to a few parishes to begin a dialogue with them on the feasibility of such a project at their parish if this project comes to fruition.

It was further noted that the archdiocese is currently seeking funding from non-government organizations to carry out a Feasibility Study on this initiative which could cost in the area of \$330,000 to complete.

In his liaison role, Jean-Paul has been asked by the archdiocese to facilitate a discovery meeting with the St. Basil's Pastoral Council and Finance Council where representatives of the archdiocese administration could provide further information to the parish representatives and solicit some feedback. The meeting will take place in mid-October.

While it is appreciated that the respective Councils can serve as an initial touch point with our parish, a process for informing and meeting with our parishioners is required prior to any commitment being made to the archdiocese.

In the initial formal discussion with the archdiocese representatives, it is important to learn what they see as the benefits accruing to their partner parish(es).

Knights of Columbus Fundraising Proposals

Pat and John brought forward two new areas of fundraising the KofC at St. Basil's would like to engage in over the next eight to ten months. The first was to support the approximately \$4,500 cost per participant for three young adults from our parish to attend the World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea next summer.

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The intent of the KofC supported fundraising would be to offset 50% of the cost for each by three main efforts: a special envelope in the collections dedicated to this event, hosting an evening of song featuring the three participants and consideration of support from the general revenue of the church.

The Pastoral Council was in agreement that a special envelope could be provided. The timing of that, after discussion with the Under One Roof campaign leadership, will be confirmed with the KofC. Similarly, the evening of song will require liaison with the Under One Roof campaign as they may have a similar plan in the works.

The discussion of a parish fund amount will be taken up with the Finance Council.

The Knights will also be raising funds to purchase wheelchairs for

The KofC has also offered to assist with the repair and painting of the baptistry wall as part of the required work for the use of that sacred space as a Care for Creation and Reconciliation place, subject to support from the Premises Committee.

Youth Coordination & Sacramental Preparation Roles

As a result of the late start on sacramental preparations last year and the need to have a more stable and planned schedule of meetings and resources, Father Adolphus met with parish leaders to discuss how to best address this year's requirements. We were pleased that Maria Costantini has agreed to coordinate the sacramental preparation and oversee youth programming for the next year.

As such, she will secure the resource people and assist in acquiring the necessary resources for sacramental preparation. In addition, youth event leaders will be identified and supported to organize events and activities for youth. It is likely that this will start small and build, perhaps with participation with other parishes where feasible.

An initial activity will be to plan for the return of the Family Mass utilizing youth ushers, greeters and liturgy readers. The first Family Mass will take place on September 27th and further masses will be held on the last Sunday of each month.

It was confirmed that the Children's Liturgy will be held twelve months a year without a summer break. We are pleased to note that Matthew Jadresik and Madie Starnes will be leading this program as well as assisting with other youth activities.

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Pastoral Council Recruitment

The call for expressions of interest in serving on the Pastoral Council went out via the weekly Bulletin with Judy Young serving as the contact person for those wanting to know more about the role and what information was required.

Judy passed on the expressions of interest to the Pastoral Council who reviewed them at this meeting to determine who would replace Lindsay Moore-Chung on the Council.

The members of the Pastoral Council were unanimous in the selection of Maria Costantini to the parish Pastoral Council.

Greg Mathieu was unanimously appointed as Chair for another year. The question was raised as to an alternative of having a different council member take the minutes at each meeting. This should be determined one way or another at the October meeting.

Baptistry Project Planning & Implementation

The Pastoral Council was pleased to learn of the September 9, 2026 letter from the Archdiocese Administration approving the project. With this now in hand there is a need to form a small ad hoc project team to set out the work plan and schedule and implement each cost element per the application to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

It was suggested that the project team would have representation from the Premises Committee, Kateri Native Ministry and the Green Team. Peter Veselovsky was asked to lead the project team and to liaise with the potential indigenous artist(s) after discussion with the Kateri Native Ministry representation.

Collections at Kateri Masses

It was noted that prior to the COVID epidemic, there was an identified collection plate for the Kateri mass that supported that ministry. Since the resumption of masses post COVID this seems to have been less prominent and likely needs to be addressed.

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Jean-Paul noted that the Missions and Social Justice Committee makes an annual donation to the Kateri Native Ministry.

The Pastoral Council will invite Donna Naughton of the Kateria Native Ministry to our October meeting to discuss this and other matters of interest to her ministry.

Other Business

- a) Greg reported to the Council on the exceptional efforts of Kevin Murnaghan to get the best out of our sound system given the challenges of doing so in our round, concrete church. In his report to the Liturgy Committee Kevin noted: The performance of the sound system could be slightly improved by further tuning based on acoustic measurements of the sound system operating in the room. Some software is available for me to try and make some simpler measurements. The greatest impact would be to acoustically treat the room but great care is needed to do this properly and not simply throw product on the wall which could help some issues but make other issues worse.
- b) It was suggested that we need to consider another Volunteer Fair after confirming the needs of the various ministries and committees. To be further discussed at the next meeting.
- c) Father Adophus provided some additional information on the discussions he has had with the representative of the Kateri Native Ministry and suggested that an agenda item at the next meeting with a Kateri representative attending would be seen as positive. The Chair will follow up on this.

Closing Blessing and Adjournment: Father concluded the meeting with a short group prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 5, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – Counters' Room