

Approved Pastoral Council Minutes, January 8, 2026 Meeting, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Vision: To be a growing community that inspires all to follow Jesus with a spirit of inclusion, compassion and service.

Mission: We encourage all to deepen their relationship with Jesus through scripture, prayer, stewardship, and ministry to others.

Tag Line: Follow Jesus Serve Others.

Meeting Notes

Attending: Father Joy Thachil (Parish Priest), Mike Flaherty, Dan Ryan (Trustees), Sue Switalski (Parish Associate), Rita McGann (Director of Administrative Services), Dave Knoll (Parish Council Chair), Paula Lucey (Parish Council Vice Chair), Ellen Park (Secretary), Jason Metz, Sharon Wrotecki, Dave Chudy, Rachel Henderson, Jim Schutte, John Plant, Mickey Holtz, Fidel Mangwiza

Excused: Anne Dettlaff

Absent:

Dave Knoll opened the meeting, followed by Bible readings; Council members shared input relevant to the readings.

The Vision and Mission statements were read, as well as the tag line,

Father Joy noted a correction to the minutes from the last meeting; the change was made and the minutes for the December 8, 2025 meeting were approved.

Reports

Father Joy:

- Thanked the staff and choirs for their input in the Advent/Christmas celebrations and First Sacrament programs; all went well. Attendance for Christmas, 1400+.
- There will be a fundraising, wine-tasting evening, on February 14, from 7-10pm; 120 seats are available, 45 have already been sold; see updates in the bulletin.
- Need to take a census to update the parish records; parishioners will be notified, given two weeks to reply; online responding available.
- A parish newsletter was sent out last month; thanks to Kathy and the formation team for its production.
- Security training has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 11am; primarily for staff and ushers; a second training will be scheduled in March; if interested in representing the Council for this training, contact Rita.

Rita McGann: No report at this time; will present the financial report at the February meeting

Sue Switalski:

- Staff review of Advent/Christmas will be held next week with Lent meeting to follow.
- Thank you to all Council members who welcomed people attending Christmas Masses.
- Staff has been writing articles for the bulletin; if interested, Council members are encouraged to submit them too.
- Next month: Start thinking about Pastoral Council Discernment.
- Pastoral Council Retreat to be scheduled in the Lenten season.
- Photos of the Pastoral Council are being updated.
- Only four tables are still available for Trivia Night.

Old Business

- When the idea of a May Crowning was presented to members of the formation team, they felt they needed additional information and specifics. Paula will follow up to more closely identify the vision of the proposed event.

New Business

No new business

Following the business meeting, Paula, using PowerPoint, guided Council members through an activity to more personally define Stewardship, incorporating all members' personal definitions, culminating in a word cloud. The goal of the process was that all members had input, all members' voices being heard. Paula will present the final product to Father Joy, who will determine how Stewardship presents itself in parish life, being integrated within all ministries.

Council members joined in Prayers for Others; Father Joy led members in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm; the next meeting is on Thursday, February 5, 2026.