

Approved Pastoral Council Minutes for May 7, 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), Rita McGann (Director of Administrative Services), Dave Knoll (Parish Council Chair), Ellen Park (Secretary), Jason Metz, Sharon Wrotecki, Rachel Henderson, Mickey Holtz, Fidel Mangwiza, Paula Lucey, Dave Chudy, Anne Dettlaff, guest Carol Van Duser

Excused: Jim Schutte, John Plant

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.

The minutes for the April 9, 2025 meeting were approved.

Reports

Father Joy:

- Thanked all staff and parishioners who helped prepare 30 confirmands and 24 first communicants.
- Priest Assembly: well attended and very informative.
- Archdiocesan May Crowning celebration: Sunday, May 10, 2pm at the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine.
- May 10, Mother's Day: mothers' blessing and sale of roses in the Gathering Area
- May 16/17: video at Masses, initiated by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, focusing on migrant issues; discernment address, by Anne Dettlaff, after Masses.
- May 23/24: kickoff presentation for Funfest by Jim Schutte.
- Sue Switalski, Parish Associate, continues working at Seton on a part-time basis; new candidates are being interviewed.
- New Youth Minister will be hired in the coming months.

Rita McGann

- February financial report: income exceeded this year's and last year's budget.
- Building and Grounds works closely with the finance committee to determine needed improvements (capital expenditures); funds will be used to update the church kitchen.
- A donor has come forward to furnish hearing accessories for the church.
- Over the past year, a new speaker system for the church has been extensively studied with oversight and review by the Building & Grounds Committee and the Finance Council respectively. Multiple bids have been provided for final approval by the Finance Council on May 19, 2026. Once approved by Finance Council, a proxy will be submitted to the Archdiocese as prescribed by Acts of Extraordinary Expenditure.
- A discussion followed: Paula Lucey questioned how would we know whether the new sound system is an improvement, has a baseline been established, what improvement will we see? She proposed that data be provided to support any final decision.
- Love One Another funds continue to be available as long as parishioners continue to contribute to them.

Old Business

- 2026 discernment: informational meeting was held in church, an article appeared in the bulletin; board printed to be displayed in gathering area; speaker after Masses.
- Stewardship: next step is how to implement it here; annual contribution not only giving monetarily but giving of one's time.

New Business

- Suggested next steps for stewardship: have ministry representatives attend a Pastoral Council meeting to clarify the goals of their ministries, to express concerns they may have, or share ideas how to increase active membership in the ministries. Assign each member of the Pastoral Council to a ministry for better communication between council and ministries, emphasizing that the Pastoral Council does not determine ministry activities but operates in an advisory capacity only. Resurrect having a retreat in fall with the theme being stewardship, understanding it in a new light.
- Defining deanery: we belong to the Waukesha East area, meeting twice each year, with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. Resources are not shared but common parish concerns and challenges are communicated.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm; the next meeting is on Thursday, June 4, 2026.