

Saint Mary Parish
Franklin, MA
Parish Pastoral Council
Sacred Heart Hall

Minutes for November 10, 2025

Parish Staff Members Present: Father John Tanyi, Parochial Vicar; Jim Flanagan, Director of Family Faith Formation; Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate

Parish Pastoral Council Members Present: Pandora Carlucci, Patricia Colford, Ed Croak, John Determan, Kara Gulla, Tim Hurdelbrink, Lauren Kelleher, Paula Marano, Lisa Oxford, Nan Rafter, John Ristaino, Thomas Seery,

Youth Members Present: Matthew Colford, Meghan Markarian

Open Meeting – Pandora Carlucci welcomed all to the meeting.

Prayer – Fr. John led the Council in reading Book of Blessings #552 (A prayer used before every session of Vatican 11)

Approval of Meeting Minutes-Pandora Carlucci asked participants to suggest edits to the September meeting minutes or to approve them. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Parish Updates – Father John welcomed all to the meeting and explained that Fr. Bob was away and asked Fr. John to provide the parish updates. Fr. John expressed his appreciation to Fr. Bob for entrusting the meeting to him and provided the following highlights:

- The parish is in a much better position than it was at this time last year following the death of Fr. Jack and the church fire. We were presented with serious challenges but the parish came together and supported each other. We are a full year past the unfortunate events and our collective healing is evident.
- New initiatives are proposed to be implemented soon:
 - Weekly opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration-in the morning following a weekday Mass and in the evening at a time to be determined. Details are still to be determined but will hopefully be announced to begin in Advent.
 - Expanded opportunities for family faith formation to hopefully begin after Christmas.
- The elevator was out of service but has been repaired and is fully functional again. The repair was completed sooner than anticipated and the required inspection was conducted timely, allowing a return to full service.
- In addition to distributing Holy Communion to residents of local senior residences, the parish has begun to offer periodic Masses with Anointing of the Sick. The Masses are well received by the residents.
- On October 5th, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi's love of animals, Fr. Bob blessed parishioners' pets. The event was well attended.
- The Grand Annual Collection is going well-more details to come.
- The Christmas 2025 Mass schedule will be as follows:
 - Wednesday Christmas Eve 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm
 - Thursday Christmas Day 8:30 am and 10:30 am

- Live Streaming of Masses has resumed. This was one of the last outstanding components of returning to our pre-fire operation.

Family Faith Formation Update-Fr. John asked Jim Flanagan to provide a summary of recent and upcoming events. Jim expressed excitement and positive energy surrounding youth faith formation events and he highlighted the following:

- Participants will gather to watch a simulcast of the Pope's speech at the National Catholic Youth Conference.
- An event at Altitude Trampoline Park is planned
- Annual Global Celebration of Youth-There will be a special blessing at the 10:30 Mass on November 23rd and reception following

Weekly Mass Attendance-As requested in a prior meeting John Ristaino presented Mass attendance statistics for the past year and provided commentary on them.

- Mass attendance continues to be steady with anticipated ebbs and flows based on typical seasonality-including weather variables.
- On average, 786 people attend weekend Masses.
- While the number of attendees remains steady, the demographics of the participants continues to evolve. There are more young families, young adults-including high schoolers and Dean College students attending. The narthex is utilized by families with active children and it is always alive with energy.
- John encouraged all present to spread the word that there is an urgent need for additional Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. There are very few young adult volunteers.

Sub Committee Updates

- St Mary's 150th Anniversary
 - The team has drafted plans that are pending approval. In summary, the celebration is expected to be a year long and involve parishioners of all ages, all abilities and all tenures in the parish.
 - Kick-off is preliminarily planned for the weekend of Feb 6th and 7th 2027 with communications surround it beginning at Christmas 2026.
- Fundraising and Parish Events
 - The team has several event ideas in various stages of discussion including:
 - Parking lot fee for July 4th events to fund youth ministry events
 - Using social media, bulletin and website to ask donors to consider gifts to the parish in memory of, in celebration of, in support of. A parish wish list may be utilized.
 - "Fun Raising" events such as at La Cantina
 - Thank You events after Mass to acknowledge support of parish fundraising efforts such as the SVdP Caring Tree, Annual Appeal or simply to say thank you.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)-Leo Racine and Fr. John gave an update on this year's program.

- This year's program is robust with participants at various stages of their faith journeys.
- Some couples will have their existing marriages convalidated as part of the program
- The intention is to involve the entire parish in the participants' journeys with a welcome during Advent.

Members' Suggested Topics for Discussion

- Lessons and Carols- 12/16/25 3:00
 - This year's event will include a youth Christmas pageant.
- Positive feedback on the return of live streaming.
- A group would like to use the Hallo app for group prayer.
- It is time to provide information to donors on the use of the fire fund. Feedback has been received regarding a perceived lack of transparency.
- The SVdP Caring Tree is returning and ornaments will be available on 11/21. The deadline for returns is the weekend of Dec 6th and 7th
- Can information regarding the use of the parish website be mined and shared?

Lightning Round

- Terry Kerr, St. Mary's Music Director is resigning effective following Christmas Mass.
- When Parish Pastoral Council meeting meetings are posted to the website, can a notice be made in the bulletin inviting parishioners review them?
- Shout out to the ambassadors. In addition to performing "front of house" hospitality functions, the team is called upon to perform a variety of other tasks. They recently dealt with a rest room situation that needed immediate attention. Thanks for all they do.
- There has been a recent flurry of activity surrounding adults wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Closing Prayer – Father John led us in a closing prayer.

Minutes compiled by John Determan