

**Minutes of the 518th Meeting  
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council  
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

**April 10, 2025**

**Members Present:** Fr. John Thomas, Dirk Dooper, Daniel Best, Gary Gant, Joe Harris, Suzanne Padgett, Katie Pagan

**Members Absent:** Russell Vaughn, David Danhaur

**Parish Team:** Deacon Conrad, Donna Murphy

**I. Call to Order**

Dirk Dooper opened the meeting at 6:08 pm.

**II. Prayer**

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written for the March 13, 2025, meeting.

**IV. Liaison Reports – Dirk Dooper**

**A. Parish Finance Committee – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of David Danhauer)**

No report.

**B. Liturgy and Worship – Suzanne Padgett**

No report. Fr. John Thomas stated everything is focused on Holy Week. Lenten Extended Confessions was well attended and nonstop both days. It was a great thing. The Cathedral Communal Penance Service will be Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm. Easter Vigil Service is April 19, 2025, at 8:00 pm. Easter Sunday Liturgy is April 20, 2025, and will be 6:00, 8:30, and 11:00 am. Seventeen are entering the church at the Easter Vigil.

**C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Joe Harris**

Joe Harris stated the committee had a representative at the Fish Fry to answer questions about volunteering with the St. Benedict Shelter and the Soup Kitchen at the Pitino Shelter. The St. Vincent de Paul Society received a \$3,000.00 anonymous donation. In the fall the committee will focus on the other areas of social concern.

**D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Daniel Best**

Daniel Best announced the Pray & Play is taking a break during Lent. Faith Formation will celebrate Holy Week with an activity focusing on Jesus' journey. The end of the year celebration will be May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Our First Eucharist prayer night is April 22, 2025. The SSC Rosary Makers made personalized rosaries for each child. Children's Liturgy of the Word and First Friday Adoration are both going well. Several families are preparing for their child to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, with Baptisms scheduled in April and May. VBS registration is open until May 20, 2025, we need adult volunteers. There will be an Easter egg hunt between the Masses on Easter morning with over 1,000 eggs.

**E. Youth – Katie Pagan**

Katie Pagan reported eleven youth are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will take place on Pentecost Sunday. Youth Ministry Discipleship Groups will be meeting for the last time this school year on April 13, 2025. We will end the school year with a Scavenger hunt in downtown Owensboro. Sign-ups have begun for our July High School Mission Trip to New Orleans. We have begun sign-ups for our local Middle School Mission week. Youth will be working with local organizations like the Help Office, St. Benedicts, the Carmel Home and end each night with a prayer experience. Youth 2000 was a wonderful time with 23 middle and high school youth attending. Our young adults are gathering Friday April 11, 2025, at Precious Blood for Stations of the Cross followed by the fish fry. We had a great season of Young Adult Volleyball that happened every Thursday night at the OCMS gym. Young Adults also

attended Singo at the pub and had a wonderful time. Karina is currently in conversation with the Diocese about fully taking over the OBKY Catholic young adult initiative and bringing it under the Cathedral.

**F. Buildings and Grounds – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Russell Vaughn)**

Fr. John Thomas handed out the minutes from the March 31, 2025, Church Renovation Committee. The next meeting will be April 14, 2025. The members of the committee are the following: Chairperson Eddy McFarland, David Danhauer, Dirk Dooper, Suzanne Padgett, Janice Scherm, Joyce Gruenwald, Mark Heinz, Dean Behnke, and Fr. Christopher Grief. The Church Renovation Committee will report to the PPC. The Williams Company, professionals with damaged windows and repairing, said the Rose Window is intact. They repaired as they inspected the windows; but there were some repairs to be made that they could not do. There was minor damage to the church and rectory from the March 15, 2025, hailstorm. Spring Clean-Up Day is April 12, 2025.

**G. Community and Family Enrichment – Gary Gant**

Gary Gant reported “That Man Is You” meets on Saturdays from 7:30-9:00 am in the Community Center. OCIA meets from 6:00-7:30 pm on Wednesdays in the Community Center. VCB will be the week June 9-13, 2025. Gaspar River Summer Camp schedule information is available. Bishop Medley will be leading a tour to Spain from August 23 to September 3, 2025.

**V. New Business**

Due to a scheduling conflict the May PPC meeting date has been changed to May 15, 2025.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

None

**VII. Action Items**

None

**VIII. Pastor’s Report**

Fr. John Thomas announced Rick Rhodes will be retiring this Spring. He has hired Derek Driskill to take his place and has made it a full-time position. Fr. Christopher Grief will begin his assignment at SSC on June 10, 2025.

**IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.**

Happy April Birthday to Deacon Richard Murphy.

**X. Closing Prayer**

Deacon Conrad led the PPC in a closing prayer.

**XI. Adjourn**

The next meeting is Thursday, May 15, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar