

**Minutes of the 526th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Rectory**

April 16, 2026

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, Joe Harris, Katie Pagan, Chris Warren, Susan Dunlap, Kevin Payne, Rita Roberson, Daniel Best, Suzanne Padgett, Drew Augenstein

Members Absent: Christopher Camp, Ross Leigh

I. Call to Order

Daniel Best opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the March 12, 2026, meeting.

IV. Fire Update - Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas stated the parish is waiting for the insurance company to get back with us. Almost everything has been removed from the Parish Office Building.

V. Liaison Reports - Daniel Best

A. Parish Finance Committee - Drew Augenstein

Drew Augenstein stated he missed the Finance Committee meeting. He reviewed a brief overview of the 3rd quarter numbers. Fr. John reported the May PPC meeting will have the first reading of the 2026-2027 budget. Andrew Nunez is preparing the budget. Fr. John announced the new office manager, Josh Bell, will begin on Monday, April 20, 2026.

B. Liturgy - Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Ross Leigh)

Fr. John Thomas stated the focus had been on Holy Week. The music was excellent and the liturgy went well.

C. Social Concerns - Joe Harris

Joe Harris reported the Social Concerns Committee did not meet in March and April. St. Vincent de Paul Society will use the front room in the Youth House. Two new people are helping our team at the St. Benedict's Shelter.

D. Children and Family Ministry - Rita Roberson

Rita Roberson stated Faith Formation classes will have their end of year celebration on May 3, 2026. Eighteen children are preparing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist on April 26, 2026, at the 11:00 am Mass. Children's Liturgy of the Word is going well. They are working on a cover for the Commemorative Cookbook. Cheryl is currently working on a Spirit Shop. VBS leaders are in place except for a leader of games. The annual Eggstravagant Easter Egg Hunt went well with over 1,000 eggs.

E. Adult Formation - Chris Camp

No report

F. Youth - Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan stated the last middle school Youth meeting is Sunday, April 19, 2026. The last high school Youth meeting is next Sunday. They will finish off the school year with a summer send off in May with outdoor games and food. The high school Graduate Recognition Mass and Cookout is May 3, 2026, at the 11:00 am Mass with lunch in the Youth House. Planning for the middle school mission week is underway. They are about to release signups to be a prayer partner for a Cathedral Youth attending Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp this summer. There will be 2 summer swim days at Atlantis this summer for community building during the summer. There are 2 preparation classes left for Confirmation. There are 14 youth who are preparing to receive this sacrament. They are in the process of forming a parent advisory group for youth ministry, to get input from parents as well as greater outreach to other families. They will begin to meet in the summer. The current small groups will continue to meet throughout the summer.

G. Young Adult - Kevin Payne

Kevin Payne reported the pick-up volleyball game has ended. By the end of the season there were 20 young adults a week coming to play volleyball and socialize after. The Solemnity of St. Joseph was celebrated by attending Mass and having dinner at Mellow Mushroom. On April 23, 2026, there will be a formation night on the Sacrament of Confession with a talk by Fr. John and the chance to receive the sacrament. It will be followed by dinner at Mi Ranchito. Pickleball is planned on April 25, 2026, at the courts by St. Peters in Stanley. There will be a Pilgrimage to Monte Cassino at St. Meinrad on May 17, 2026, followed by dinner at Brew Works. Our young adult women's group continues to meet on Monday evenings, and the young adult men on Wednesday evenings. They will open applications for others to join the leadership team this summer to expand the team.

H. Buildings and Grounds - Chris Warren

Chris Warren announced termite activity was located in the basement of the rectory. The tunnels were destroyed, but another inspection is necessary to determine if more activity. Bat activity in the church attic will be inspected at the same time. Bats may be entering through chocked doors.

I. Parish Family Life - Susan Dunlap

Susan Dunlap reported Preparation for Holy Week consumed much of Parish Life's energy since the PPC's most recent meeting. There were 149 liturgical ministry positions for Palm Sunday, Trinitium, and Easter Sunday. The percentage of liturgical spots unable to be filled for Holy Week was 10.7. The 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee is meeting monthly and recruiting musicians for the dinner, nailing down the menu and other details. They have put together a proposal to have a historical marker to be placed at Cathedral. They are also organizing a 100 Hours of Community Service initiative as a part of the 100th Anniversary observance. A Corpus Christi Procession is being organized to go from St. Joe and Paul to the Cathedral. The first barbecue chicken sale is this is Saturday, April 18th, 2026, with 200 chickens presold.

J. Renewal and Expansion - Suzanne Padgett

Suzanne Padgett stated the committee is meeting next week to go over the design of the rectory with the architect. They are preparing for a presentation to be made for the PPC and the Finance Committee. This will be followed by listening sessions with the parish. A \$250,000 "ask" will

be made to the Bishop to pay for the design of the Parish Hall. This time next year we need to work on the windows. April 30, 2026, is the next Renovation Committee Meeting. Due to the fire everything has been on hold.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. Action Items

None

IX. Pastor's Report

Fr. John announced that Fr. Christopher plans to be back by the end of May. Fr. Paschal is being transferred on June 9, 2026, to St. Francis De Sales in Paducah. Fr. asked us to pray for Fr. Paschal and the repose of his Uncle's soul, Emanuel Oscar Uko. Fr John reported OCS was told we were keeping the preschool in the parish.

X. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy April 23rd Birthday to Ross Leigh. Happy April Anniversary to Drew and Susan Augenstein.

XI. Closing Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led us in closing prayer.

XII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, May 14, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar