

**Minutes of the 529th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
209 Sutton Lane Parish Office**

August 13, 2026

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, Joe Harris, Chris Warren, Susan Dunlap, Rita Roberson, Suzanne Padgett, Katie Pagan

Members Absent: Drew Augenstein, Daniel Best, Kevin Payne, Christopher Camp, Ross Leigh

Team: Fr. Christopher Grief, Seminarian Juan Carlos

I. Call to order

Fr. John Thomas opened the meeting at 6:05 pm

II. Fr. Christopher Grief led the PPC in prayer.

III. The minutes were approved as written for the June 11, 2026, meeting.

IV. Seminarian Juan Carlos was introduced to the PPC.

V. Liaison reports - Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Daniel Best)

A. Parish Finance Committee - Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Drew Augenstein)

Fr. John Thomas stated we are a little behind budget, but not much. Sutton office was not in budget.

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

Fr. John Thomas reported the 100th Year Anniversary Celebration is September 6th, 2026, with Mass at 4:00 pm followed by a celebration with 400 people at the Convention Center. There will be no 11:00am Mass that Sunday. The 100 Hours Adoration begins August 25-September 5, 2026. During this time period we will also be offering the Angelus every day at noon, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Fridays at 3:00pm, a Rosary on September 1, at 3:30pm, a Litany of the Most Holy Eucharist on Saturdays at 9:30am, and Praise and Worship Music on Saturday, from 8:00-9:0am. The choir will begin their year singing at the Anniversary Mass celebration. Due to strong turnouts for Saturday confessions SSC will no longer cancel Saturday 9:00am Mass and confessions for a funeral. On Vocation Sunday the Bishop presided and recognized the 14 seminarians.

C. Social Concerns - Joe Harris

Joe Thomas announced the St. Vincent de Paul collections are good overall. The Volunteer Fair is scheduled for November 7- 8, 2026. The next Social Concerns meeting is August 20, 2026.

D. Children and Family Ministry - Rita Roberson

Rita Roberson stated the Commemorative Cookbook sales are ongoing. VBS was amazing! We had 71 children and 42 volunteers. There were 21 children more than last year. Thirteen families are preparing for Baptism. Children's Liturgy of the Word begins September 13, 2026, with 2 new leaders, Katie Brewick and Ashley Bartley. Faith Formation registrations have been mailed to each family. Faith Formation will begin on September 13, 2026. Michelle Grayson and Jennifer Welch are new Catechists replacing Jessica Lusk and Ashtin Warren. There is a Holy Half Hour on October 8, 2026, with our homeschool families. Pray & Play will resume in September with 5 leaders who have agreed to facilitate this group. They plan to follow the liturgical calendar and plan activities around it. First Sacraments registrations have been mailed with a parents only meeting scheduled for the end of August.

E. Adult Formation - Katie Pagan (on behalf of Chris Camp)

Katie announced OCIA began meeting weekly as of August 12, 2026. We had 7 inquirers/ candidates in attendance. This year we are focusing heavily on getting the community involved in the OCIA and helping our candidates to get involved with the community at St. Stephen. The Women's First Saturdays will begin again September 5, 2026. The Men's Club will resume their monthly social nights in September. Fr. John and Fr. Christopher have invited our Sponsor Couples to a dinner this weekend to show their appreciation for such an important ministry. We are bolstering our efforts to foster small groups for adult formation. We will highlight several existing groups to give more insight of the many activities already happening in our parish.

F. Youth - Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan stated we had 19 Cathedral Youth attend Gasper River this summer with 4 volunteering for a week to be a counselor. We are looking for Youth Night core team members, a Youth ministry care team, and small group leaders. Youth ministry Kick-Off will be August 23, at 6:00pm at the field behind Immaculate. High School small groups will resume after Labor Day. All small groups will gather once a month for a High School Youth night focused on community building. Middle School Youth Nights will begin after Labor Day in the Immaculate Youth Room twice a month. Registration for the ODYC will open soon. This conference is for 6-12 grade youth at the Owensboro Convention Center, November 20-21, 2026. Confirmation prep information has been sent to all families with 8th graders. We will have 17 Confirmandi.

G. Young Adult - Katie Pagan (on behalf of Kevin Payne)

Katie Pagan reported there were multiple social opportunities over the summer, including a Mass and dinner, karaoke, and game nights. A group of young adults have started playing outdoor volleyball every Tuesday night. The young adult women's small group has grown over the summer, and they are beginning a second one. Our young adult men's group continues to meet weekly. The Young Adult Leadership Team will be meeting August 16, 2026, to discuss their vision for this ministry as well as planning events for the rest of the year.

H. Buildings and Grounds - Chris Warren

Chris Warren announced a rectory garage wood support inspection and the trim replacement will be scheduled in the near future. Cost is about \$3,500. All rotted wood and trim will be replaced. Murphy Excavating is pricing demolition of the old office.

I. Parish Family Life - Susan Dunlap

Susan Dunlap reported work has begun on a comprehensive renewal of the Cathedral's Hospitality Ministry, beginning with the formation of a new Hospitality Leadership Team. This group will help shape the future direction of the ministry while focusing on creating a more welcoming and engaging experience for parishioners and visitors. Alex Reid has begun discussions with a nationally recognized Catholic speaker and hospitality trainer, Sheri Wolfhert. Work has begun on evaluating and strengthening the Cathedral's emergency shelter capabilities. Initial efforts have focused on assessing current resources, identifying areas for improvement, and developing a long-term preparedness plan to better serve both parishioners and the broader community in the event of a disaster. Laurie Hicks has agreed to partner with us and lead this ministry. The Parish Social Life Committee is preparing to meet in the coming weeks to begin planning this year's Fall Block Party and to develop the calendar of parish social events for 2027. The annual stewardship pledge publications remain in the editing phase. Printing proposals have been solicited in preparation for production and distribution. Printing costs are definitely up. The most recent New Member Welcome Reception was held July 25, 2026, in the parish rectory. About five new families attended and planning is underway for the next Reception in October. Discussions are taking place regarding relocating the event to the Community Center.

J. Renewal and Expansion - Suzanne Padgett

Suzanne Padgett stated Fr. John Thomas, Fr. Christopher Grief, Crissy Stevenson, Ted Lolley, Ben Hartz, Dean Behnke and Eddy McFarland met August 13, 2026, to discuss repairs to the church windows. The updated cost is approximately \$1.6 million. The contractor can start in the spring if we commit by mid-fall. The Diocesan required amount of 40% (\$640,000) cash in hand, with pledges for the remaining 60% must be met before parish can commit. Improvements to interior lighting is still under discussion for the same time period to take advantage of scaffolding already in place. Ted Lolley reported he has given all requested information the the insurance company for the claim on the fire damages to the office. Once the insurance claim is settled demolition of the old office building will begin. Nothing regarding the Rectory improvements was discussed at the meeting. The architect has not been responsive to Eddy's emails and phone calls.

VI. New Business

Fr. John Thomas has met with Holly Pfeifer and Tracy Conkright to examine the possibility of bringing the preschool under the umbrella of OCS.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. Action Items

None

IX. Pastor's Report

Fr. John Thomas announced Fr. Pascal was transferred to Francis de Sales in Paducah on June 9, 2026. He was only there 1-2 weeks and the Bishop transferred him due to the Myanmar priests having issues with immigration status. Fr. Pascal is now over 3 parishes. Fr. Christopher stated his father, David, is not doing well and asked for prayers. Fr. Christopher is in his 3rd year leading the Gennesaret Retreat held at the end of September. He requested to inform him if you know of someone that can benefit from the Retreat. It is for those living with chronic, serious, or terminal illness.

X. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy Birthday to Rita Roberson on August 27.

XI. Closing Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led us in closing prayer.

XII. Adjourn

The next meeting is September 10, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Pagan