

**Minutes of the 524th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

January 8, 2026

Members Present: Fr. Christopher Grief, Daniel Best, Suzanne Padgett, Katie Pagan, Christopher Camp, Chris Warren, Rita Roberson, Drew Augenstein, Ross Leigh

Members Absent: Susan Dunlap, Joe Harris, Kevin Payne

I. Call to Order

Daniel Best opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. Christopher Grief led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the December 11, 2025, meeting.

IV. Liaison Reports - Daniel Best

A. Parish Finance Committee - Drew Augenstein

No Report

B. Liturgy - Ross Leigh

Ross Leigh reported all went well with Advent and Christmas and on to Lent.

C. Social Concerns - Joe Harris

No Report.

D. Children and Family Ministry - Rita Roberson

Rita Roberson stated “The Circle of Grace” Safe Environment training went well. Police officer Mark Lusk was a guest speaker and talked about “community helpers.” Eighteen children will attend sessions with their parents for First Sacraments. In Time - Advent Devotional for Women, and Illuminate Advent Study were both amazing. The Advent Family Parish Holy Hour was a peaceful event with around 30 participants. The First Friday Adoration is going well. A meeting will be held soon for the next phase of the cookbook. The family movie night was well attended with 45 children and their families. Cheryl is currently working on a Spirit Shop. Rainforest Falls VBS planning will begin soon and we will be partnering with St. Pius this year.

E. Adult Formation - Chris Camp

Chris Camp announced OCIA has 20-25 people in discernment. The Men’s Group team is shifting slightly from the John Edwards approach to a more layered approach, which places more emphasis on the once a month fellowship nights. It still offers the other components of prayer, study and service. Hopefully, this will allow us to reach more men of the parish. The Women’s First Saturdays will resume in February. The details for the February 13-14, 2026, retreat for married couples are being finalized. It will be offered free of charge for all parishioners.

F. Youth - Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan reported that Karina visited our youth at Christmas Camp at Gasper River. Youth nights have begun, with a new system of middle school meeting at the Youth House and high school meeting at the Immaculate youth room. The annual middle school lock-in will be January 16-17, 2026, at Immaculate. Registration opens the week of January 12, for the Youth 2000 retreat in March. Planning is underway for our middle school mission week.

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

Katie Pagan stated the Young Adult Leadership Team is meeting January 11, 2026, to plan the events for this semester. A survey for our young adults was sent to get a sense of how we can better serve our young adult community. Our young adults are meeting January 8, 2026, at the Pub on Second, for Singo, for an after the holidays social gathering.

H. Buildings and Grounds - Chris Warren

Chris Warren announced the second elevator technician confirmed the elevator's issues are more than likely caused by the valve. The second valve cost estimate is \$10,000, which is \$5,000. less than the first estimate. This technician indicated the lead time to order would be at least a week. Scheduling could take up to three months and installation would take approximately 2 days with the state inspection unsure of timing. There is no guarantee that this is the only issue. A motion was made at our last meeting to approve this expenditure after a second opinion was rendered. It will now go to the Finance Committee. Bob has noticed that glazing on the lower stained glass window frames is deteriorating. There is evidence of more than one bat in the attic. Orkin has been notified and they will place cameras to determine where they are entering. It was stated that the baptismal font water heater is rusting and the rust is going into the baptismal font. It should be replaced no later than Easter. The motion was made and passed to install a \$1,500. water heater for the baptismal font.

I. Parish Family Life - Susan Dunlap

No report.

J. Renewal and Expansion - Suzanne Padgett

Suzanne Padgett reported that on January 13, 2026, there will be a meeting with the architect concerning the rectory plans. Eddy is going back to St. Joseph's to get more info about their window repairs. Eddy will meet next week with Tom Lilly to develop a capital campaign plan.

V. New Business

Fr. Christopher handed out the "We Stand With Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters Statement of the Bishops of Kentucky on the Feast of the Epiphany January 4, 2026."

VI. Unfinished Business

None

VII. Action Items

None

VIII. Pastor's Report

Fr. Christopher gave a Stewardship Update. To date, out of 609 families, there have been 205 Prayer, Service, and Generosity submissions received. The Stewardship Team is currently contacting parishioners who have not yet responded to encourage their participation. Total pledged contributions stand at \$651,309.24, in line with last year's totals.

Fr. Christopher presented the 100th Anniversary Update. The committee is currently preparing a church history museum to take place on January 31, and February 1, 2026. The 100th Anniversary Celebration dinner will take place at the Owensboro Convention Center. Currently the committee has a seventeen volunteer team. Fr. Christopher is exploring how much it would cost to restore our monstrance. Fr. Christopher presented the Lenten Season and Holy Week dates and the schedule of Ash Wednesday Liturgies. On January 11, 2026, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and a sprinkling Rite will be offered at all Masses. In January and February the Blessing of Throats and the Anointing of the Sick are scheduled. He reported that on Friday mornings there are 9 ministers visiting 17 homebound parishioners. Fr. highlighted the work Derek Driskill is doing with OCIA, Fr. Corey as Vocation Director, and Sr. Monica Seaton OSU as Pastoral Associate at Blessed Sacrament Chapel. He thanked all those that assisted with the Christmas liturgies, arts and environment and music. He asked prayers for the repose of the soul of Fr. John's Uncle, Kenneth Thomas. He thanked members for being on the PPC.

IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy January Birthday to Margie Ebelhar.

X. Closing Prayer

Fr. Christopher led us in closing prayer.

XI. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday February 12, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar