

**Minutes of the 525th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Rectory**

March 12, 2026

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, Joe Harris, Katie Pagan, Christopher Camp, Ross Leigh, Chris Warren, Susan Dunlap, Kevin Payne

Members Absent: Rita Roberson, Daniel Best, Suzanne Padgett, Drew Augenstein

Parish Team: Holly Pfeifer

I. Call to Order

Joe Harris 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 January 8, and the January 21, 2026, meetings.

IV. Fire Update - Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas stated the parish is waiting for the insurance company to get back with us. The fire was electrical. Fr. handed out an update from Eddy McFarland, chairman of the St. Stephen Cathedral Renovation Committee.

V. Liaison Reports - Joe Harris

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

Fr. John handed out the 2nd quarter numbers displaying income vs. expense. Fr. John stated contributions have been decent.

B. Liturgy - Ross Leigh

Ross Leigh announced James Wells never has anything to report. It was determined that Ross will go forward with using Fr. John as his liaison. Fr. John mentioned the recent Arts at the Cathedral concert. The parish is preparing for Holy Week. There is a new Men's Choir.

C. Social Concerns - Joe Harris

Joe Harris reported the St. Vincent de Paul Society is in a holding pattern. They are trying to find a place to use as an office. Where the food will be distributed is still in the air. The Backpack Ministry will be operating from Sutton Lane. The Pitino Shelter has enough volunteers.

D. Children and Family Ministry - Margie Ebelhar (on behalf of Rita Roberson)

Margie Ebelhar stated due to the fire, Faith Formation classes are now being held at the preschool in the Diocesan building. Eighteen children are preparing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Children's Liturgy of the Word is going well. The First Friday Adoration is going well. They are working on a cover for the Commemorative Cookbook and all the recipes have been

submitted. Cheryl is currently working on a Spirit Shop. VBS leaders are in place except for a leader of games. Books for families and children are available in the church for the Lenten season. The annual Eggstravagant Easter Egg Hunt will be at 9:30 am. A discussion was held concerning the future of the Cathedral Preschool. It was decided to keep it as a St. Stephen Cathedral parish ministry at the Diocesan Center. The Council is open to future discussions with OCS. Fr. John Thomas commended Holly Pfeifer for her excellent performance as Director of the Cathedral Preschool. The PPC and the parish support Holly and the Preschool.

E. Adult Formation - Chris Camp

Chris Camp announced OCIA has 19 people that will join the church at the Easter Vigil. The Men's Club is continuing in the attempt to have a once a month fellowship night. For February this took the form of the Mardi Gras party, which was open to the parish. We had a great turn out - around 150 people. The Men's Choir will sing at the 8:30am Mass on March 23, 2026. The Walk through Holy Week with Sacred Art took the place of The Women's First Saturdays in March. It is yet to be determined if this will take place in April due to Easter and other events. The February 13-14, 2026, retreat for married couples had 12 couples participate. It went well for a first event in this sphere. The number of those visited by the Ministry of Care on Friday mornings is growing.

F. Youth - Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan stated Youth nights are still occurring weekly, with middle school and high school meeting on alternating weeks. The Youth 2000 Retreat was the weekend of March 13 at Brescia, We had 50 youth, grades 7-12, attending this retreat. Confirmation preparation has entered its final series of classes. We have 14 youth who are preparing to receive this sacrament. A group of high school youth are meeting in a book club to read the book Gifted and Grit by Sarah Swafford. A small group of freshman girls have begun meeting. Planning is underway for our middle school mission week which will take place the first week of June. Our youth have been invited to be a cheering station in front of the Cathedral for the Wendell Foster Half Marathon.

G. Young Adult - Kevin Payne

Kevin Payne reported there is a pick-up volleyball game every Tuesday. The young adults led the Stations of the Cross. On March 6, 2026, they enjoyed a dinner party. Everyone brought parts of the meal. On the 3rd Thursday they gather for prayer followed by dinner at a restaurant. The Men's and Women's Group both meet weekly.

H. Buildings and Grounds - Chris Warren

Chris Warren announced lawn service and snow removal has been awarded to Rudy's Lawn Service. Cost is less than current charges. Current charges are approximately \$400.00 per visit. New charges will be \$375.00. Plumbers are scheduled to replace the water heater in the font this week.

I. Parish Family Life - Susan Dunlap

No report.

J. Renewal and Expansion - Suzanne Padgett

No report. Covered under other reports.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. Action Items

None

IX. Pastor's Report

None

X. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy February Birthdays to Katie Pagan and Suzanne Padgett. No March celebrations.

XI. Closing Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led us in closing prayer.

XII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, April 16, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar