

**Minutes of the 527th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
209 Sutton Lane Parish Office**

May 14, 2026

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

Members Absent: Drew Augenstein

Team: Fr. Paschal

Guests: Renovation Committee Members: Eddy McFarland, David Danhauer, Steven Roby, Dirk Dooper, Dean Behnke

I. Call to Order

Daniel Best opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

III. Renovation Committee Report

Eddy McFarland handed out copies of “The Summary of Various Proposed Projects.” He and the Renovation Committee members summarized the following proposed projects: church window repair, church interior lighting, rectory renovation, office building/parish hall, organ renovation, parking, and removal of bats from the church. The PPC was in consensus with the various proposal projects. The next step is for Fr. John and Eddy to visit the Diocesan Chancellor, Tom Lilly.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the April 16, 2026, meeting.

V. Liaison Reports - Daniel Best

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

Fr. John Thomas handed out the Preliminary 20226-2027 Budget prepared by Andrew Nunez. This was the first reading of the budget. Fr. John announced the new office manager, Josh Bell, will be present at the June PPC meeting for the second reading of the budget.

B. Liturgy - Ross Leigh

Fr. John Thomas stated First Communion was well attended and went well. Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026. Corpus Christi Procession will be June 7, 2026.

C. Social Concerns - Joe Harris

Joe Harris reported the Social Concerns Committee will meet May 28, 2026. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is utilizing the front room in the Youth House and opened on May 14, 2026. The Food Pantry opened May 5, 2026, and is working out of the garage at Catholic Charities. Chris Camp now a member of our team at the St. Benedict’s Shelter.

D. Children and Family Ministry - Rita Roberson

Rita Roberson stated Faith Formation classes held their end of year celebration on May 3, 2026. First Holy Communion celebration was on April 26, 2026, at the 11:00 am Mass. The last Children's Liturgy of the Word is this upcoming weekend. The cover for the Commemorative Cookbook was submitted this week. 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 was a success.

E. Adult Formation - Chris Camp

Chris Camp reported they finished meeting with the OCIA for the 2025-2026 year. Eight have signed up for the coming year. They will meet once a month throughout the summer and will resume meeting once a week after school starts. Derrick received good feedback from the team and from the group and hopes to incorporate into plans going forward. The Men's Club monthly social night will be at the Owensboro Country Club on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 7:00 pm. The Women's First Saturday resumed after Easter; there is discussion about whether to meet/adjust plans during the summer. A few Sponsor Couples are working with those to be married. Several new individuals need to receive Communion through the Ministry of Care. Overall, Derrick is in a planning phase attempting to look holistically at those ministries under his umbrella.

F. Youth - Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan stated the summer send off was May 3, 2026, with outdoor games and food. The middle school mission week is going to be the first week of June. We have 15 youth signed up now with more interested. More adults are needed to help. They will spend Monday thru Thursday working with different organizations and then attend Holiday World on Friday. Signups have begun for our prayer partner program for Cathedral Youth attending Gasper Camp this summer. There will be 2 summer swim days at Atlantis this summer for community building during the summer. Confirmation will be May 24, 2026, at the 11:00am Mass. There are 15 youth receiving this sacrament. Karina is working with a group of adults to plan a high school boys and girls retreat for the end of summer to lead into our school year. Planning is underway for the fall semester and restructuring our high school program to focus more on small group ministry. Our middle school program will remain focused on whole group nights of formation and community building.

G. Young Adult - Kevin Payne

Kevin Payne reported on April 23, 2026, there was a formation night on the Sacrament of Confession with a talk by Fr. Lourdu and the chance to receive the sacrament. It was followed by dinner at Mi Ranchito. Pickleball was played on April 25, 2026, at the courts by St. Peters in Stanley with lots of players. There will be a Pilgrimage to Monte Cassino at St. Meinrad on May 17, 2026, followed by dinner at Brew Works. There will be a formation night on the Mass with Fr. Brandon on May 21, 2026, followed by dinner. Kayak Day at Gasper will be on July 11, 2026. Our young adults are helping with the Corpus Christi procession in June. We will open applications for others to join our leadership team this summer to expand our team.

H. Buildings and Grounds - Chris Warren

Chris Warren announced the termite treatment worked with no evidence of termites in the basement of the rectory.

I. Parish Family Life - Susan Dunlap

Susan Dunlap reported preparation is beginning for 2027 stewardship initiatives. This involves the design and layout of the new publication. The 100th Dedication Anniversary Celebration is Sept 6, 2026, beginning with Mass and will be followed by dinner at the Convention Center. The order of events has been determined, invitation design has been approved, and other details have been ironed out. John Kurtz will be asked to emcee a trivia section of the event. Former pastors may be asked to provide a brief talk about their time at St. Stephen Cathedral. There will be a formal presentation of a papal blessing to the Bishop by Fr. John Thomas. A Corpus Christi Procession is being organized to go from St. Joe and Paul to the Cathedral. Design and decoration planning has begun. The Hispanic community from Sts. Joe and Paul, and the Burmese community from St. Pius X will assist with certain stops along the procession.

J. Renewal and Expansion - Suzanne Padgett

No report

VI. New Business

None

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. Action Items

The second reading of the 2026-2027 Budget

Fr. John Thomas and Eddy McFarland will visit the Diocesan Chancellor, Tom Lilly, to move forward on the Cathedral Renovation.

IX. Pastor's Report

Fr. John announced that Fr. Christopher plans to be back on May 25, 2026. Fr. Paschal is being transferred on June 9, 2026, to St. Francis De Sales in Paducah. Seminarian Chris French is arriving May 18, 2026. Fr. Titus returns from Uganda on May 26, 2206.

X. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy May 20th Ordination Anniversary to Fr. Christopher Grief and Happy May 29th Ordination Anniversary to Fr. John Thomas.

XI. Closing Prayer

Before Fr. Paschal led us in closing prayer. He thanked PPC members, Fr. John, Fr. Christopher, and the entire parish for welcoming him when he first arrived to our parish.

XII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, June 11, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar