

**Minutes of the 519th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

May 15, 2025

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, Dirk Dooper, David Danhauer, Joe Harris, Suzanne Padgett, Katie Pagan

Members Absent: Daniel Best, Gary Gant, Russell Vaughn

Parish Team: Fr. Shibu, Donna Murphy, Deacon Conrad

I. Call to Order

Dirk Dooper opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the April 10, 2025, meeting.

IV. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer

A. Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer

David Danhauer submitted minutes from the April 25, 2025, Finance Council meeting. After the meeting the minutes were e-mailed to each member of the PPC.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Suzanne Padgett

No report. Fr. John Thomas stated the servers are doing well. There is a need for more ministers. Confirmation will be held on Pentecost Sunday June 8, 2025.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Joe Harris

Joe Harris reported on the special Lenten Collections; the John and Kathy Wright Soup Kitchen at Pitino Shelter \$3,710.00, Help Office of Owensboro \$170.00, Catholic Charities- Office of Refugee Resettlement \$315.00, St. Stephen Cathedral Emergency Food Assistance \$2,781.00.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Margie Ebelhar (on behalf of Daniel Best)

Margie Ebelhar reported Faith Formation celebrated the end of the year on May 4, 2025. The kids did a Scavenger hunt in the church, did a prayer craft, and had a snack. Kent Short is the only Catechist not returning next year. First Eucharist was a beautiful Mass and celebration. Julie Best is committed to another year. Children's Liturgy of the Word is going well. All of the leaders have committed to another year, except for Jamie Thompson who is moving this summer. First Friday Adoration was cancelled due to lack of signups. Currently four families are preparing for their children to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for this upcoming weekend. VBS registration is open until May 20, 2025. We had an Easter egg hunt between the Masses on Easter Sunday. We had over 1,000 eggs and the weather held out. Derek Driskill sent an update on adult formation opportunities: OCIA wrapped up May 14, 2025, with Rick's send off. The plan is to begin the new year the week after school starts on Wednesday's at 6:00. Updates will be provided. A new men's group will meet on Thursdays at 7:00 pm beginning on June 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The first Thursday will be fellowship, the second will be formation, the third will be worship/prayer, and the fourth will be some type of service.

E. Youth – Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan reported 8 Seniors were recognized and received a blessing and a gift from the parish. There was a cookout after Mass for seniors and their families to spend time celebrating together. A Summer Send-Off Scavenger Hunt Downtown Activity closed out the school year. Karina is working on putting together teams of adults to lead small groups for the next school year. They will be transitioning from a Hybrid Small group model to small groups meeting separately on their own schedule with whole group social events each month. They are preparing for our middle school mission week which is first week of

June. They will be assisting with decorating and setting up for VBS, helping at the Carmel Home, and a few other local organizations. The High School Mission Week in New Orleans is quickly approaching. This summer Karina is starting a book club for girls. They will come together, discuss what they are reading and do a craft together. All groups will all have socials in the summer.

The Young Adults had an Easter Bonfire the Friday after Easter at the Youth House followed by karaoke at Brew Bridge. On May 15, 2025, the young adults are meeting at St. Mary Magdalene to hear a talk on the rosary from parishioner Olivia Spear, pray the Rosary together and have a social after. At the end of May we are doing a YA Girls/Guys night. The ladies will be "Rosary and Rose," the men "Bonfire and Beers." In June there will be a night on the Sacred Heart with Fr. Corey followed by a cook out. There will also be a backyard movie night toward the end of June. Our Leadership team for Young Adults is looking for new members.

B. Buildings and Grounds – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Russell Vaughn)

Fr. John Thomas reported plaster is falling in the church. Insurance is working on estimate for what needs to be repaired or replaced from March 15, 2025 hailstorm.

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Gary Gant)

No report

V. New Business

Suzanne Padgett will be the PPC liaison to the Renewal & Expansion, Building a Brighter Future Committee and will have monthly updates. On May 14, 2025, the committee took a tour of the rectory. Suzanne Padgett stated the house needs to be reconfigured because it is not functional. The committee is going to hire an architect. An estimate for \$101,000. was received to update the current elevator. We will get a second opinion. The bats will be exterminated in August. The repairs around the windows will cost \$180,000.00. They can't be worked on until September.

VI. Unfinished Business

None

VII. Action Items

Hire an architect for Renewal & Expansion Committee.

VIII. Pastor's Report

Fr. John Thomas announced Lucy Neal's funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 am and Mike Bogdan's Memorial Mass at 2:00 pm on May 16, 2025. Deacon Conrad's priesthood ordination is May 31, 2025, at 10:00 am. His first Mass will be June 1, 2025, 11:00 am at St Stephen. Fr. Shibu will be leaving and Fr. Christopher Grief will be arriving June 10, 2025. Sr. Jeanette will be leaving June 22, 2025, and Sr. Monica has been hired to replace her.

IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy Ordination Anniversary to Fr. John Thomas on May 29, and Fr. Shibu on May 12.

X. Closing Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in a closing prayer.

XI. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, June 12, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar