

**Minutes of the 521st Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

October 9, 2025

Members Present: Daniel Best, Joe Harris, Suzanne Padgett, Katie Pagan, Ross Leigh, Rita Robertson, Kevin Payne, Chris Camp, Drew Augustein

Members Absent: Susan Dunlap, Chris Warren

Parish Team: Fr. Christopher Grief

I. Call to Order

Fr. Christopher Grief opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. Christopher led the PPC in prayer.

III. Dr. Jeff Andrini – Director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship for the Diocese of Owensboro

Dr. Andrini stated the PPC needs to ask what are the main goals and needs for the parish community. They need to help the parish to be welcoming, to evangelize and to worship. Each of us represent the needs of the parish and are an advisory committee. Prayer is very important. Fr. Christopher passed out Guidelines, Policies, & Best Practices for Pastoral Parish Councils.

IV. Introduction of PPC Members

Fr. Christopher had the PPC members introduce themselves to the group.

V. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the August 20, 2025, meeting.

VI. Liaison Reports – Fr. Christopher

A. Parish Finance Committee –

No report.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Suzanne Padgett

No report. Fr. Christopher stated September 14, 2025, was the Feast Day of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The parish used our cross with the relic of the Holy Cross. Parishioners were invited to bring crosses to be blessed. Fr. mentioned the many diverse liturgical opportunities in our parish. All Souls' Day will be Sunday, November 1, 2025. The names of parishioners that have died in the past year will be read at all the Masses. Fr. Christopher added that October 4, 2025, was a joyful beautiful day with five Liturgies and Confession.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Joe Harris

Joe Harris reported the Ministry Fair will be held November 1st and 2nd, 2025, after each Mass. Fr. Christopher added the Booklet "Rooted in Christ, Growing in Service" will be mailed before November 1, 2025, for the "prayer, service, and generosity" stewardship campaign.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Daniel Best

Daniel Best announced the Children Faith Formation sessions have 27 children registered. First Reconciliation is November 9, 2025, with 17 children preparing for First Sacraments. Children's Liturgy

of the Word is going well. First Friday Adoration is thriving with parishioners signing up for the minimum 2 spots. There are 11 children/babies who will be baptized later this year. There are 8 moms who are participating in a mini-retreat based on the book, Sacred Chaos. An Advent Parish Family Holy Hour is scheduled on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 4:00 pm followed by a meal. We have formed a committee to prepare for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of our current location. The Commemorative Cookbook is part of our 100 year celebration.

E. Youth – Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan reported the Middle and High School Youth Ministry is growing. The Middle Schoolers celebrated Pope Leo's Birthday with a pizza party playing games with pizza boxes and a Pool Noodle Palooza. Most recently they had the first High School Youth encounter night. There is a great need for more volunteers for Youth nights. The National Youth Conference is coming up November 20-22, 2025, in Indianapolis. We are taking a group of 18 and have been begun fundraising. Signups have begun for high school small groups, which now will meet on their own time selected by the kids and their group leaders. For middle school kids to dive deeper, a bible study group is meeting twice a month on the off weeks of middle school youth nights.

Our OBKY Catholic Young Adult Leadership Team is in full swing. There have been many events in the last month: Pickleball, Bingo at Brew Bridge, and Ultimate Frisbee. Our future events are a Rosary Hike led by the seminarians of our diocese at Rudy Mines Trails, volunteering at the Fall Block Party as our service opportunity for the month, an outdoor movie night in November and more. We are also excited to offer another cooking class with Fr. John Thomas in December, where we will be cooking for the homebound of our parish. Fr. Christopher added Karina has merged the Immaculate and Cathedral Youth Groups.

F. Buildings and Grounds –

Fr. Christopher announced the bat removal went well. It took Orkin seven days to take out old insulation and put in new. They covered the holes so bats cannot come back in the attic.

G. Community and Family Enrichment –

Fr. Christopher reported the 99th Anniversary of our current location was celebrated on September 6, 2025. The event was well attended.

H. Renewal and Expansion Committee - Suzanne Padgett

Suzanne Padgett stated the meeting of the Church Renovation Steering Committee was held on September 15, 2025. The \$80,000 bat removal is part of Phase I of the projects. Orkin was paid out of the parish savings and the Capital Campaign will pay it back. Other projects in Phase I include: rectory renovation, stained glass window repair and plaster work, design of the new parish hall, and interior lighting improvements. Eddy McFarland has met with architects to gather info about the rectory and will present plans to the committee. Phase II projects include new parish hall and organ renovation. Phase III projects include additional parking on parish-owned properties and a maintenance building for Bob. Fr. Christopher handed out the minutes from the September 15, 2025, meeting.

VII. New Business

Some of the names of the committees were changed and divided. The committee liaison responsibilities were discussed and were assigned to members. Daniel Best is Chair and Joe Harris Vice Chair of the PPC. The following are committee liaisons: Finance Committee - Drew Augustein, Liturgy - Ross Leigh, Social Concerns - Joe Harris, Children & Family Ministry - Undecided, Adult Formation - Chris Camp, Youth Ministry - Katie Pagan, Young Adult Ministry - Kevin Payne, Buildings & Grounds - Undecided, Parish Family Life - Undecided, Renewal and Expansion Committee - Suzanne Padgett. It was decided to not have refreshments served at the PPC meetings.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None

IX. Action Items

The staff will be notified of the new liaisons and have then reach out to PPC members.

X. Pastor's Report

Fr. Christopher announced the arrival of Fr. Pascal from Nigeria.

XI. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy October Birthday to Joe Harris.

XII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Christopher led the PPC in a closing prayer.

XIII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, November 13, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar