

St. Peter Parish Council (SPPC) Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2026

Attendance

Parish Council Members:

Parish Council Role	In Attendance
Pastor	Father Joe
Parochial Vicar	Father Marty
Chairperson	Mike O'Brien
Vice Chairperson	
Secretary	Marion Enie
Ladies Guild	Vicki Bogden
Faith Formation	Chase Mack
Knights of Columbus	
Finance	Ralph Rand
Christmas Fair	Jane Alaimo, Chris Miller
Building and Maintenance	
Regional Parochial School	Beth Iacobelli
Trustees	Carmelo Rosa, Ken Vallera
At Large	Kathy Oktavec, Skip Paul

Parishioners/Guests:

Mary Todzia, Melissa Carlson, Jaime Carrero

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Father Joe offered the opening prayer.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Carmelo Rosa made the motion to accept the April minutes with one edit to the spelling of Kathy Oktavec's name. Mary Beth Iacobelli seconded and approved.

Old Business & Recent Events

The April 17th hour of Adoration for vocations was well attended. Due to illness, Bishop Reidy could not attend. The Director of Vocations, Father Jeffrey Ellis, led the Adoration.

Mike Farina was not in attendance to give the preliminary Tag Sale report

Mary Beth Iacobelli noted that she received a good summary of the status of the Exit sign leading to the Rectory and asked Ken Vallera to share it. Ken explained that he worked with the Fire Marshal, who determined that the sign could technically be removed. This information was shared with the Knights of Columbus, who were concerned that an exit would not be available. Carmelo Rosa said the Knights are pursuing options and pricing, including opening the door in the opposite direction to maintain an exit for the children using the basement for Faith Formation. The Fire Marshal and the insurance carrier will be consulted in making a recommendation. Kathy Oktavec asked whether the door could be propped open during Faith Formation as a potential solution. Ken explained that the door leads to the Rectory's private quarters and is not a long-term solution.

New Business & Upcoming Events

Ken Vallera stated that all events and the use of the Church Hall, whether sponsored by the Parish or by outside parties, must be coordinated through the Parish office and approved by the Parish Council. If the event is not a Parish function,

the organizers must provide proof of insurance. Church organizations such as the Ladies Guild and the Knights of Columbus are approved groups and need only coordinate the use of Church facilities.

Mike Farina was not present but has asked for clarification regarding the Corpus Christi liturgical celebration on Sunday, June 7th. Father Joe, who will be the Celebrant, noted that the event will be outdoors, weather permitting. Skip Paul will organize the servers.

Father Marty noted that the Living Rosary will be held on Monday, May 18, at 6:30 PM.

Marion Enie reported that Martha Ceplenski, Kathy Oktavec, Skip Paul, Mary Ann Poole, and Gigi Simko expressed initial interest in the SPPC At-Large position. Due to other commitments, Mary Ann and Gigi withdrew their nominations. No Parish election is required to fill the 3 seats. Martha, Kathy, and Skip were approved by consensus as the At-Large members. Marion Enie will prepare an announcement for inclusion in an upcoming Bulletin.

Mike O'Brien noted that the election of officers for Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary will take place at the June SPPC meeting.

Mary Beth Iacobelli reported that \$3,691 is available for the Youth Service Award.

- \$1000 from the Knights of Columbus
- \$500 from Ladies Guild
- \$370 from Quilters
- \$1,821 from collection

There are no candidates as yet, with a cutoff of May 11. Carmelo recommended extending the deadline by one week to May 18. Mary Beth will prepare an announcement for the Lectors for all Masses on the weekend of May 10-11.

Father Marty mentioned that internal and external events are helping build our Parish community for both parishioners and non-parishioners. These include a Pentecost Vigil on Saturday, May 23rd, the Parish Family Prom on June 26, and Fabulous Fridays with Father Marty.

Carmelo recommended a SPPC vote for these activities

- Jaime Carrero made the motion for weekly Fabulous Fridays with Father Marty, including Adoration, Confession, and a meal in the Church Hall (if available), starting on May 9. Mary Beth Iacobelli seconded and approved.
- Carmelo made the motion for the Parish Family Prom Night on June 26th. Mary Beth Iacobelli seconded and approved
- Skip Paul suggested that the New Adam Society, as the sponsor of the Pentecost Vigil, be removed. Mary Beth Iacobelli moved that the umbrella approval cover all interfaith liturgical events, seconded by Chase Mack, and the motion was approved.

Following the earlier discussion and Father Marty's comments on liturgical celebrations, better coordination is needed. The responsibility for planning and communication rests with a few individuals, most often led by Father Marty.

Skip Paul moved to formalize the Liturgy and Spiritual Life Committee. Marion Enie seconded, and the motion was approved. Skip volunteered to lead the committee, with Father Marty providing input. Mary Todzia also volunteered.

Marion Enie recommended using Google Calendar to manage Liturgical and event planning across the Parish in real time. This tracking can start with Liturgical events and expand over time. Chase Mack volunteered to organize a tutorial for those interested in setting up and managing Google Calendar.

Ministry Updates

Ladies Guild

Vicki Bogdan reported that the Ladies Guild will be celebrating its 90th anniversary with a dinner for members and invited guests at the Church Hall on June 13th.

There is a funeral on May 6 for Nestor Gendreau. Over 100 are expected. Help is needed to clean up from the Tag Sale and ready the Church Hall.

The Ladies Guild will have the Rosary in Church on May 13th at 6:00PM

Pro Life Ministry

Mary Todzia reported that she is coordinating the Annual Layette Event with the Norwich Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for St. Peter's. A flyer appeared in the Bulletin on May 3. The request includes diapers, wipes, baby clothes, crib blankets, baby food, and formula. Mary will attend the event on June 7th and coordinate the delivery of donated items.

Finance Committee

Ralph Rand reported that monies have been placed in the following financial vehicles, allowing for rolling maturity and ongoing liquidity.

- 3 month CD \$25,000 APR 2.96%
- 6 month CD \$25,000 APR 3.74%
- Money Market \$44,000 APR 2.5%

To date the Church is in the red by \$8,500 for the year.

Faith Formation

Chase Mack reported that Jane Alaimo and Kathy Oktavec have set a new standard for First Communion. Children and families were very pleased with the special celebration. Beginning in 2027, First Communion will be held on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Faith Formation registration plans for the 2026-27 year are underway.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. Father Marty concluded with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Enie
Recording Secretary