

# MINUTES

## ST. CECILIA PASTORAL COUNCIL

*January 12, 2026; 7:15 P.M.*

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Fr. Michael Khong	Mike DePasquale	Phuc Nguen
Deacon John Reza	Jennie Harnett	Paula Chavez-Harte
Mayolo Rebolledo	Jessica Basa	Yanika Kurniawan
Harjanto Tjandra	Pete Ruiz	Julie Schoenbachler

### Guests:

Teri Schulist	Andres Huerta	Tina Pham
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### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Pastoral Council meeting was called to order at 7:15pm. Fr. Michael opened with prayer. After a brief update on Bishop Vann's health, he departed early.

Members introduced themselves to the visiting guests.

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### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November minutes were approved.

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## ONGOING INITIATIVES

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### PASTORAL COUNCIL/MINISTRY LEADER INTERACTION

**Mike DePasquale**

[RECAP] The idea is to start folding the Pastoral Council and various other ministries together; Invite heads of ministries to a meeting and hear from them what they're working on and how we (PC) can support.

### Past guests:

Simon Nguyen- Rotunda Scheduling Software  
Susie Moeller- Bereavement Ministry  
Andy Gymarty – Eucharistic Ministry  
Sandie Guard- Ladies' Ministry  
Jesse Zepeda- Business Manager, School

Ministry leader(s) for January pastoral council meeting included:

### **Teri Schulist :: Music Ministry ::**

This ministry is diverse and large. Each community has their own music director, and Teri's role as music director of English masses, entails coordinating and scheduling musicians- cantors and/or instrumentalists, ensembles, for the weekly masses and special events. She directs various choirs

of St. Cecilia (English) and coordinates efforts with the other communities when there are multicultural events so things run smoothly. Her role is part-time.

- On weekly basis, Teri plans out and schedules all music for Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses, based on the scriptures that week.
- She creates monthly calendars, outlining schedules of the choirs, musicians, etc.
- She directs various choirs of St. Cecilia; The current program is set up to have individuals move on to the next level group as they age out of their current choir.
  - **St. Cecilia Choral** (Adult choir)
    - Teri publishes the year long schedule in the summer. This group gathers every Wednesday and Sunday, Sept-May.
  - **Youth Ensemble** (4th Grade and up)
  - **Children's Choir** (2nd & 3rd Grade)
    - This Choir is fairly new, and Teri works with them multiple times a month
- **Annual Christmas Concert-** This event involves everyone in the Parish. This is a large event and takes many months to plan. This past year, the program ran 1hr 20min, followed by a reception.
- **Special Events-** Teri schedules instrumentalists to augment special events throughout the year.

→ **Support Needs/Challenges:**

- **Male vocalists:** Overall, this ministry runs smoothly and is not facing current challenges. However, Teri would always love to have more singers, *particularly men*, in the adult choir. Those she does have are consistent and committed.
  - No experience necessary to join, except ability to match pitch.
- **Event support** for receptions & special events. Additional support is welcome to help with set up, clean up, purchase of items, and the manning of various tables like food, coffee/tea, for special events; overall logistics.
  - Teri was able to get volunteers from the confirmation program to help with the Christmas concern reception, but stressed how helpful the event committee was in the past, when we had one in place. Would love to see this committee brought back.

**Andres Huerta :: Business Manager-Parish ::**

**Tina Pham :: Accountant- Parish ::**

Andres is part of the shared services department for pastoral center. In cases where a business manager cannot be afforded or the role is not filled, the pastoral center and Diocese will provide support and resources. He took over upon Deacon Bill's departure.

Andres works with two other parishes currently, in addition to St. Cecilia. He serves St. Cecilia on Thursdays. He is not on St. Cecilia payroll.

Due to the limited time Andres can spend at St. Cecilia, Tina Pham came onboard in September 2025, to help support Andres with Parish accounting/financial needs. Tina has been an accountant for over 10 years and currently works Mondays & Thursdays. On the other days, she is acting business manager for the Vietnamese Catholic Center.

Their roles include:

- Annual budgeting & approval (September)
  - Published for school & parish Nov/Dec for transparency.

- General accounting and cash flow management-
  - Reviewing collection streams
  - Accounts Receivables
  - Managing Expenses-
    - Researching details on transactions
    - Providing review and funding misc. or extraordinary costs (i.e. SEEK conference, Christian services funds for food, rent, etc)
  - Closing of the books

A discussion was held regarding the new building and related increased costs and how this impacted Parish finances. Overall, the Parish continues to be stable. The new building expenses are being managed. There was some concern the new building would require much maintenance and upkeep (utilities, etc) and these increasing expenses would impact the Parish. However, the savings in Parish payroll and additional fundraising and capital campaigns from parishioners, has helped offset the maintenance expenses of the building.

The various other recent upgrades to the Parish (i.e. Tabernacle transformation, security, carpet/tile, visual and audio system) have all been supported by designated donations.

As far as weekly collections, they are currently sustaining. With elderly aging out, we may need to find other paths of constant revenue in the future.

Parish savings is significant and is placed in a restrictive savings account. St. Cecilia does not have an endowment.

→ **Support Needs/Challenges:**

- Finance Council Chairperson- Upon the passing of Julian, Finance Council is regrouping and is in need of a new financial chairperson. Nothing concerning at this time, but with progress stopped, it is important to fill this role.
- Thanksgiving Edition Financial Update Newsletter. The Finance Council publishes finances each year, to communicate the state of the Parish, to the community. Andres would love to create a special newsletter or edition, which not only publishes the financial snapshot of the Parish, but also includes spirituality figures.
  - Include stats of meals served, number of children receiving sacraments- baptisms, first communion, confirmation, etc.

Ministry Leads to invite to future PC Meetings include:

- Robert Loera – Ushers
- Carrie Weeks\* (*\*confirm lead*) – Lector Ministry
- Knights of Columbus
- Everard Esteban\* (*\*confirm lead*) - TMIY

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**SCHOOL SECURITY**

**Fr. Michael**

Security has been implemented. There is a new security guard.

Other changes implemented include the students' route to mass and designated seating.

School upgraded the camera system – enhanced resolution and additional camera locations- over Christmas break. This was funded by donations received for “Fund-an-item” at the annual school Gala.

No updates discussed.

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**LENTEN DINNERS****Fr. Michael**

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Details regarding the dinner fee and initial dinner hosts were determined, but overall structure of this year's Lenten dinners need to be finalized after conferring with Fr. Michael.

- **First Friday Dinner:** Fr. Michael will host the first Lenten Dinner with the Spanish Community and serve fish tacos. This will be Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Fee-** \$10/person, capped at \$40/family

Again, a general discussion was had regarding the menu, weekly hosts, and timing of the stations of the cross. The desire remains to make these meals more community oriented every week, but no clear outline yet on how to execute.

**→Follow up:** Mike DePasquale will connect with Fr Michael to determine the following:

1. Hosting Duties:
  - a. Will each ministry be assigned and host one week? Or will all ministries come together every week, throughout Lent, to serve?
2. Menu:
  - a. Will there be a set menu this year? OR default to different dinner menus as in years' past?
    - i. It was suggested to have a set main menu (such as Fish&Chips and Cheese pizza for kids), and each community can bring representative supplemental dish(es) to serve if they'd like.
3. Stations of the Cross:
  - a. Will we maintain 3 separate stations of the cross (English/Vietnamese/Spanish) at 5, 6, and 7pm? Or will we make it multilingual this year?
    - i. This will impact dinner service timing.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

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**PASTORAL COUNCIL-NEW MEMBERS 2026****Mike DePasquale**

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Per the bylaws, there should be 6 members representing the various communities, and up to 9 discerned or elected members. Currently PC has 6 discerned members, all of whom have committed to staying on this next year.

Although there is not an immediate need for more members, in efforts to maintain the numbers, all members are tasked to think about/consider nominations. The group can review and discuss submitted names at the February meeting.

- **Filipino Community-** Sinulog 2026- A celebration of Baby Jesus (Santo Nino) will be held January 17<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.
  
- **Christian Services-**
  - 400 toys were given out in December! (~300 toys picked up from Angels of Love and ~100 toys donated by St. Cecilia School)
  - Friday food distribution is going strong, with 260 ppl fed this past Friday. Clothes were also handed out this past Friday.
    - Pete provides a weekly report listing # of Adults, # of Children, and # of Seniors receiving food.
  - Volunteers have increased and many coming from the school each week.
    - If time allows, Deacon John suggested taking the students in for adoration before serving. Currently, Pete leads the group in prayer at the start of each distribution event.
    - It was suggested to hand out pamphlets related to St. Cecilia, or copies of scripture passages. This was done in the past but has not been implemented recently. Pete will follow up with the church office to see if there are copies of anything we can provide to food distribution recipients.
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank does not have any restrictions on passing out flyers or information on church events/readings. The only stipulation is recipients cannot be *required* to commit to attending mass, or any event, as a result of receiving food.
  
- **St. Cecilia School-** Open House will be held January 25<sup>th</sup>, kicking off Catholic Schools week.
  
- **Vietnamese Community** – N/A
  
- **Hispanic Community-** N/A
  
- **Indonesian Community-** N/A

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**PASTOR REPORT****Fr. Michael**

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Fr. Michael updated the council on Bishop Vann's health and recent surgery, and then provided a brief update on recent events.

**Parish Events:**

- **Healing and Deliverance through Rite of Exorcism Speaking Event-** Fr. Thomas Gary spoke at the church on January 9<sup>th</sup>. This event was well attended and received positive feedback.
  
- **Cross of Gratitude-** The church hosted the Cross of Gratitude Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>- January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many visitors commented on the beauty of St. Cecilia and the noticeable improvements.
  
- **Christmas Concert-** This was held on December 19<sup>th</sup> and had good feedback.

**Deacon John- Spirituality in the Church-**

Fr. Michael would like Deacon John to engage our community and expand the spirituality in the Parish. In this light, Deacon John proposed movie screenings (*I Thirst*) at the Parish, as a community event at our last meeting (January). He is still looking into having a screening and follow up speaking event, to build Spirituality in the community.

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**FUTURE MEETINGS**

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- Next gathering will be February 9th.

Future Meeting Dates:

March 9
April 6
May 4

Deacon John closed in prayer at 8:38pm.