

Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: PPC President Malcolm McCluskey; PPC Vice President: Frank Butler; John Czajka; Roly Diaz; Jim Hennessey; Rob Johansson; Colleen Kennedy; Eric Nicoll; Jacqui Pascal; Paul Ravencroft; Pat Towell.

The Opening Prayer was offered by Jim Hennessey.

Welcome and Introductions: Malcolm McCluskey provided reflections on concerns facing our community and country such as violence, mass shootings and substance addictions, and asked members pray for the victims during the holidays.

Parishioners Open Forum: Several members of the parish community joined the meeting to lead a discussion surrounding the role of women in the Catholic church. Several parishioners expressed their deep disappointment in the recently released report of the Second Commission for the Study of the Diaconate. There was extensive discussion about these topics including proposals to host an Information Session at Holy Trinity in January or February, and to promote Holy Trinity participation in the 50th anniversary Women's Ordination Conference which is scheduled to occur in May 2026. Father Gillespie reported that there has been discussion among parish staff and Jesuit leadership to offer a synodal conversation on the topic of women's roles in the church, to occur possibly in January. There was extensive discussion on these issues, strong support for the Holy Trinity community to engage in a synodal conversation, and to do it soon. The Jesuit leadership, PPC, parish staff and parishioners will be working to develop this synodal discussion in the coming days and weeks.

Pastor's Report: Father Gillespie provided the PPC with updates on several topics:

- Cardinal McElroy has had successful cancer treatment and is back to work.

- Fathers Kelley and Campbell have returned from planned surgeries and are recovering while performing their duties.
- The Migrant Familia mass was a tremendous success and included a visit from Santa.
- He distributed copies of the Holy Trinity 2025 annual report and provided extensive details on a highly active parish with success in several areas.
- The Capital Campaign has achieved a milestone of having received commitments for \$1.5 million toward the \$14.5 million goal.
- Planning for Holy Trinity's 175th anniversary in June 2026 has begun.

Old Business:

- Judith Bunnell is leading the discussion regarding proposed updates to the PPC bylaws, and is engaged with parish staff and PPC members. Feedback is still needed from some committees.
- Tony Varas, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy, reported on the experiment to livestream the 11:30 a.m. mass (rather than the regularly livestreamed 9:00 a.m. mass). Viewership was approximately the same. The goal of the Worship Committee is to show a broader sense of the Holy Trinity community to parishioners and others who tune in to livestreamed masses. As part of this report, there was broad discussion regarding trends related to young people joining the church, the need to be more invitational.
- Tony Varas reported on ongoing efforts to enhance safety preparation for those attending Holy Trinity masses, including training and awareness for ushers. This issue was raised during a PPC Parishioner Open Forum earlier this year.
- Malcolm McCluskey discussed the current registration form for new parishioners, specifically opportunities for new members of the community to indicate their skills and interests which may be tapped into by the parish. An ad hoc group will be formed to review the form and consider enhancements.

New Business:

- Colleen Kennedy commended the work of Eucharistic Ministers and suggested ways to recognize their important contributions. Colleen also highlighted Holy Trinity's unique crucifix, and Father Gillespie indicated that

a written description of the cross would be made available in the back of the church.

- Frank Butler noted the passing of parishioner Donald McCrabb and asked for prayers for Don and his family.
- Malcolm McCluskey led a conversation about various synodal approaches to how the PPC functions and how dialogue is fostered within the group. He asked members to continue to discern how the Council will function in coming months and years. There will be additional discussion.

The Closing Prayer was offered by Rob Johansson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.