

Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: PPC President Malcolm McCluskey; PPC Vice President Frank Butler; Fr. Kevin Gillespie, Pastor; Judith Bunnell; John Czajka; Roly Diaz; Jim Hennessey; Colleen Kennedy; Eric Nicoll; Jacqui Pascal; Paul Ravencroft; Pat Towell.

The Opening Prayer was offered by Judith Bunnell.

Welcome and Introductions: Malcolm McCluskey convened the meeting and welcomed everyone back for the first meeting of calendar year 2026.

Parishioners Open Forum: Several members of the parish community joined the meeting but did not bring forward specific issues for PPC consideration.

PPC Formation with Ignatian Spirituality: Catherine Heinhold, Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality & Prayer, joined by colleagues Mauricio Gutierrez and John Oh, Chair of the Ignatian Spirituality and Jesuit Identity Committee, led the PPC in a training session to strengthen the Council's use of Ignatian spiritual practices in conducting its dialogue and discernment. The training centered on the use of the Ignatian Presupposition in all dialogue and including role playing exercises:

- Be eager to put a good interpretation on a neighbor's statement/action
- When unsure about your neighbor's position, ask how they mean it
- Correct the other person with love when necessary
- Search for mutually acceptable solutions
- Use the non-verbal Jesuit plus sign (cross index fingers) as a reminder to use the Presupposition

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

- Plans are in place for the special parish *Dialogue on Women in Ministry in the Church*, which will take place the afternoon of Saturday, January 24. Approximately 60 parishioners have registered to participate.
- The *Catholic Standard* recently published a column by Msgr. John Enzler on the top goals of the Archdiocese of Washington developed through dialogue last year. Fr. Gillespie summarized Holy Trinity's ongoing ministries and activities consistent with each of the six goals.
- Fr. Gillespie and Ashley Klick, Pastoral Associate for Social Justice, participated in an Immigration Committee meeting led by Cardinal McElroy and Catholic leaders across the archdiocese. The Committee is focused on numerous areas of support for migrants including direct assistance, legal, education and other forms of accompaniment. Fr. Gillespie also commented on the extensive work of the Holy Trinity Migrant Familia as well as the strong public comments on the treatment of migrants made by Pope Leo XIV, U.S. bishops, cardinals and other Catholic leaders.
- Fr. Gillespie remarked on the work of the History Committee, including recognition of the gravesites of enslaved and formerly enslaved parishioners at Holy Rood cemetery.
- Several activities are being planned in recognition of the 175th anniversary of the Holy Trinity church, which will take place in June 2026.

Old Business:

- Discussion regarding proposed updates to the PPC bylaws is anticipated to conclude this month so the PPC can move forward with adopting the new bylaws.
- There was extensive discussion on initiatives to enhance the security of parishioners, ministers and celebrants at masses in the church. Tom Favret, Managing Director of Parish Operations, will be invited to participate in the February meeting for further discussion.

New Business:

- Frank Butler led discussion on a recent book by James M. O'Toole, *For I Have Sinned: The Rise and Fall of Catholic Confession in America*. The book reminds us of the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation and its decline in America. Discussion included various options to educate

parishioners and promote consideration of the sacrament at Holy Trinity during the upcoming Lenten season and beyond.

- The next meeting will be held as planned on February 18 (which is also Ash Wednesday) at 7:00 p.m.

The Closing Prayer was offered by Eric Nicoll.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.