

St. Mary Parish Pastoral Council
Franklin, MA
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2026 (approved 6.8.26)

Present: Father Bob Poitras, Pastor; Jim Flanagan, Director of Family Faith Formation; Leo Racine, Pastoral Associate.

Parish Pastoral Council Members: Patricia Colford, Kara Gulla, Tim Hurdelbrink, Lauren Kelleher, Jim Lane, Lisa Oxford, Nan Rafter, John Ristaino, Thomas Seery, Pandora Carlucci, Paula Marano, Paula Coughlin.

Youth Members: Meghan Markarian, Matthew Colford

Open Meeting – Pandora Carlucci welcomed all to the meeting. Father Bob thanked council members for their prayers, messages and support during his recovery.

Prayer – Fr. Bob led the Council in reading Book of Blessings #552 (A prayer used before every session of Vatican 11)

Updates - Father Bob

- Father Wally enjoyed being at St. Mary Parish, and would be happy to help out in the future if needed. His last weekend mass will be at 10:30 on Memorial Day Weekend. The parish will put something together for after the mass to thank him.
- We will also be doing something for Liz Bertone.
- Installation of our new security system will begin sometime between the middle and the end of May. The system will include video surveillance, auto locks and FOBs. The funds for the system, \$70,000.00, were donated by a parishioner. This amount will cover installation of the system and three years of operating expenses. The system will cover the entire church. Both sacristies will be locked, and staff and committee heads will have badges to gain entrance. Once the system is in operation the church will be able to remain open.

150th Anniversary

- Plans are underway and going well. Pandora and Father Bob have met and discussed the events of the anniversary celebration.
- This will require a great deal of work, and we will be inviting parishioners to get involved. Father Bob will make announcements inviting people to join subcommittees. The Knights would like to be involved, and the Rod and Gun Club has offered their help as well. We will also need to do some

fundraising. Pandora has asked Father Bob if he would write a letter for the bulletin, and we can follow up with recruiting.

- Father Bob has coordinated for Archbishop Henning to come on February 6th.
- There will be a “mini St. Rocco Festival”. It will be family friendly, and will follow the previous St. Rocco time frame of Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
 - Friday will focus on youth, and will culminate with a concert.
 - Saturday there will be a family festival, which will include bouncy houses and games, a cookout and some sort of tournament. There were suggestions of wiffle ball, volleyball or cornhole. There will be a team registration fee.
 - Sunday the weekend will culminate with an outdoor mass and an outdoor catered dinner under a tent. We also discussed having a slide show with pictures and videos, and a “Rocco Award” for parishioners who have been involved in the parish over its 150 years. We will ask parishioners to share memories.
 - The 150th Anniversary Committee will meet on June 18th, and all PPC members are welcome to attend.
- During our year of celebration, we will also be building off of our traditional parish events.
- As we journey through our 150th year, we will “rebrand” our parish. We are seeing new parishioners, and we want to ensure that they feel welcome to become involved within the parish.

Parish Council Elections

- There were not as many nominations as in past years. Father Bob suggested placing the names of nominees in a basket to be placed on the altar and prayed over with guidance from the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost Sunday names will be drawn. Paula Marano will call nominees to ensure that they would be willing to serve. Once selected, we will provide biographies of new members. Our outgoing members are Paula Coughlin, Ed Croak, John Determan, and Paula Marano.

Meeting with Archbishop Henning on the role of Parish Councils

- Jim Flanagan, John Ristaino and Tom Seery attended the meeting. It was well attended by people from across the diocese, including many clergy. The Archbishop wants Parish Council members to be listeners in terms of what parishioners want and what they are interested in, so that they can bring information to the pastor. The Archbishop plans on holding this meeting every year. Attendees from parishes that have implemented the “listening format” shared what makes them successful.
- Father Bob shared that there is a project for Archdiocesan funding similar to Promise for Tomorrow that will support parishes, primarily those that struggle with finances.

Parish Finances

- In response to questions about parish finances. Father Bob shared the following
 - The fire fund total was \$178,202.29
 - The Grand Annual for FY25 total was \$119,121.00
 - \$38,344.00 on line and \$80,777.00 from envelopes
 - The parish received over one million dollars from the insurance claim
- Weekly collections have been healthy, totaling between 18 and 19 thousand per week
 - 13 thousand on line and 5-6 thousand in envelopes.

Finance and Operations Manager position

- A job description has been completed and will be posted for the position.

Faith Formation ~ Jim Flanagan

- Two family faith formation programs that Jim has had experience with are “Generations in Faith” and “Pathways”.
- There is a committee that is creating a proposal for a new Family Faith Formation program for our parish
 - There will be opportunities for all (families as well as single parishioners)
 - It would be an October to May program with a four week schedule, including four different sessions to accommodate schedules. There could be some type of meal, opening prayer, breakout sessions and closing prayer. There would be a program for younger children (K and under) in close proximity to where parents are, and a multigenerational Mass.
 - It will run on a six year cycle.
 - Week 1 ~ An activity each month for families to work on together at home.
 - Week 2 ~ Family Mass and traditional faith formation for grades 3-7.
 - Week 3 ~ Sacramental preparation
 - Week 4 ~ Christian service
- There is a consideration to change resources, and the goal is for every family to have a Bible.
- Resources will include The Bible, lectionary, NCCL and EQ Saints.
- There will be support for individuals with disabilities.
- The program will be inclusive for all ages.
- Jim will share a draft of the brochure.

Lightening Round

Meeting closed at 8:35

Submitted by Lisa Oxford