

Blessed Sacrament Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Blessed Sacrament Parish

Present: Bill Colson (President), Fr. Tim Hoag, Fr. Robert Kinyon, Ashley Bradsky-Hunsaker, Mary Ireland, Pat Moran, Emily Herrera, Tony Ohlmacher, Wendy Honeycutt, Ian Kopriva (arrived late)

Absent: Dave Raml, Quincy Kjerstad, Liz Murphy

Recording Secretary: Evan Ireland, Parish HR & Communications Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bill Colson, President, following the opening prayer. Opening Prayer: Fr. Tim Hoag led the council in prayer, asking for grace to facilitate encounters with Christ for parishioners.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Bill Colson requested approval of the previous meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by present members.

Parish Leadership Day: Fr. Tim Hoag discussed the upcoming Parish Leadership Day on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The event will roll out the new parish vision, values, and anchors, emphasizing a cultural shift. All council members confirmed receiving invitations and were encouraged to RSVP via email.

Good Friday Soup Lunch Volunteering: The council agreed to serve the soup lunch following Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3, 2026, at 12:30 PM. Bill Colson, Mary Ireland, Pat Moran, Emily Herrera, Ashley Bradsky-Hunsaker and Wendy Honeycutt volunteered to serve and clean up, with Diane Aultmann preparing the soup.

Welcoming and Hospitality Committee Update: Ashley Bradsky-Hunsaker reported 26 new registrations in 2025 (busiest in summer and October) and 16 so far in 2026 (7 in January, 6 in February, including 3 Spanish-speaking families coordinated with Maria Munoz). New processes include updated handouts with talking points for greeters (e.g., "I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you" instead of "Are you new?"), a card with QR code for registration, and automated follow-ups. Deacon Rob is leading efforts, with plans for welcome dinners, tours, and quarterly events in May/June. Ian Kopriva provided additional details on identifying new attendees via hospitality ministers, brief contact slips collected during collections, and follow-ups by the committee. New volunteers include Brock and Ashley, and Mike and Marissa Wolman. The focus is on church shoppers and unregistered attendees, with touch points like coffee meetups post-Mass.

Parishioner Retention and Transitions: The council discussed parishioners leaving the faith (not just switching parishes) and encouraged personal outreach if known. No recent concerns about construction-related departures. Samantha McCulley from the Finance Council will promote electronic tithing for continuity during construction, noting low adoption (around 10%). Suggestions included QR codes on collection baskets and pews for donations, envelopes at pew ends, and promotional items like "I e-tithe" cards.

Youth Evangelization Liaison: Ian Kopriva noted restructuring, with long-time members transitioning out and new contacts being made from a list of names. Council liaisons (including Ashley and Ian for welcoming) will remain as assigned unless changes are requested.

Support for Parishioners Needing Rides to Mass: Fr. Tim Hoag raised the need for transportation for 15+ functional but non-driving parishioners (e.g., due to macular degeneration), often in areas like Sandstone Apartments. Ideas included neighborhood pairings, contracting bus services, or a ministry for volunteers. Concerns included liability, training, and preferences for specific Mass times (e.g., 4:00 PM). Catholic Social Services (via St. Anne's) was suggested as a resource for trained volunteers; Mary Ireland volunteered to investigate. A list of those needing rides will be shared with the council for potential matches.

Food Pantry Partnership: Fr. Tim Hoag announced a partnership with Catholic Social Services' food pantry (distributing to 300 people weekly), as other parishes are committed elsewhere. Deacons Larry, Greg, and Rob will coordinate promotions for food donations, replacing purchases from Feeding South Dakota. A liaison may be needed for ongoing updates.

Placing Christ at the Center (PCC) Transition Update: Fr. Tim Hoag and Bill Colson reviewed progress toward a September 2026 start. A calendar of tasks (subject to change) was shared, with copies available upon request. The transition team meets every other Monday at 4:30 PM. Recent architect meetings showcased life-size sanctuary and altar designs. Kickoff planned for May 15, 2026, with unveiling and blessing of the Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament statue. Maintenance garage construction begins in June (via Randall Construction after licensing issues with volunteer Jim Shaw completing by July end. Workdays (marked purple on calendar) include leapfrogging garages, sanctuary platform building, and site prep. Parish Festival timing was noted, with adjustments for construction mobilization (staying east to avoid setup areas). A permanent power station will be added between garages for events, and negotiations underway to purchase electrical cables from Volt Electric to save on annual festival costs.

Council Role and Parish Needs: The council discussed evolving into a more action-oriented group beyond endorsements and information sharing, including problem-solving, providing pastoral insight, and gauging parish temperature. Suggestions included structured liaison reports (2 per meeting, with bullet points/agenda items in advance), ownership in committees, and addressing key needs like ensuring "no one falls through the cracks" (e.g., hospitality, rides). A volunteer booth or ministry fair was proposed to recruit for opportunities (e.g., drivers, Bible studies), with lists of ministries to avoid overburdening regulars. Person-to-person outreach was emphasized over bulletins/announcements. Periodic leadership gatherings will promote collaboration and Christ-centered culture alignment.

New Business: Nothing additional raised.

Closing: Fr. Robert closed the meeting with prayer, giving thanks for the parish and asking for strength in service.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm following the closing prayer on Thursday, March 12, 2026.