

Saint George Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2026

Present: Fran Wainer, Father Dillon, Andrew Montgomery, Lena Pavel, James Kenefick, Val Campanelli, Yolande Eldridge, Debra Falvey, Bob Keiser, George Goulet, Donna Yatcko, Maria Hacker, Regina Beausejour, Emily (last name?), Noreen Wolleben, Jim McMahon & Jody Fay

Father Dillon gave an opening prayer at 11: 48 a.m.

Yolande: Minutes approved with one small revision.

Welcome to our new members, Andrew Montgomery, Lena Pavel, James Kenefick and Jim McMahon (appointed by Father Dillion)

Father Dillon: Father appointed Jim McMahon to the council. Our new youth minister, Oliver Shannon is starting on June 1st, 2026.

Fran: The new website launched this week. The brochure for the columbarium is completed and the blessing ceremony is on June 14th at 1 p.m. Summer hours begin on June 15th.

Emily: Nothing new to report. There is concern about next year as the juniors do not seem to be very interested. Father mentioned that will be in Oliver's skill set and position to address. Donna will check with Oliver and direct him to the peer ministers.

Donna: Faith formation is underway.

Confirmations held at the Cathedral were beautiful. The families were very pleased and gave many compliments. We had two successful First Communions followed by the May Crowning. On June 3rd at 6:30 pm in the hall there is a new faith formation meeting. Kelly Henderschedt will be coming to give the experience of good news. She will be giving a presentation and answering any questions the parents may have.

We had two confirmation ceremonies this year and we will have two next year and two in 2028. Families will have to attend about once a month. It is about empowering them to share their faith with their children. The archdiocese has put out a tool kit for discipleship, and their website has activities to assist. The Vatican has directed a new model and volunteers are needed. The Knights of Columbus are assisting as is the St. George Men's Group.

There is a new database for Faith Formation. It is estimated that approximately 270 families are in the database. Thank you to Donna for leading the Faith Formation. Vacation Bible school will focus on Saint Carlo Acutis.

Father: There will be a blessing of the columbarium on June 14th at 1 p.m. Father had to receive special permission from Bishop Coyne to do the service. It will be a ten-minute ceremony. So far, eight niches have been sold. After the blessing ceremony, cremains may be interred. Yolande thanked Father for his report.

Fran: We are working on brochures to send to local funeral homes regarding the columbarium. To do this, she needed new software. The Appalachian trip is June 18th through June 28th. Thirty-five children from St. George and St. John Bosco are going. The new website is close to being completed. Yolande will update the pastoral council site before leaving. Photos for the new members are needed to update the site. June 3rd is the target date for the new website. Andrew mentioned that Norwich has an app that has all parish dates and he will share it with Fran. Thanks to Sarah in the office, who was very helpful with the website.

Maria: Returned from the youth ministry meeting. She met with two seniors (Lorelei and Emily) and spoke about Pope Leo and St. Carlo and how important it is to take your faith to college. Thank you to Maria for this important endeavor.

George: August 19th is the baseball game trip to Fenway. The Red Sox are playing the Arizona Diamondbacks. The link will be available to sign up for the trip, and it will be in the bulletin, and Father will announce it at mass. So far, twelve people have signed up. St. Margarets and St. John Bosco will also advertise it in their bulletin. We need approximately fifty people for the trip. Father is even going, despite his fan allegiance! Thank you, George, for your efforts.

Yolande/Deb: We will need a point person to take over the merchandising and swag. We will put out some samples with a billboard sign at the Italian Fest August 28th and 29th. In stock we have about fifteen shirts, hats, and a vest. Order forms have been left in the vestibules of the church, and orders can be placed online.

Lena, Deb, Yolande and Maria volunteered to work at the Italian Fest. Father mentioned that if someone could bring a laptop, people can order directly from the booth with their own credit card.

(Note: We still need a chairperson).

Bob: The West Point game is cost prohibitive at \$305 per ticket to arrange for our Parish. Thank you to Bob for looking into this.

The graduation water is all set for June 13th. The Men's group is handling it. We have plenty of volunteers from the Men's Group. There will be a pop-up tent in front of the church along the driveway. Bob will return the empty bottles to Costco.

Tomorrow is Memorial Day and the flag will be at half-mast. Father takes care of this. There will be a 3 pm moment of silence.

On June 6th the Men's Group is holding a dinner to raise money for Chloe's Closet.

Raffle tickets for the Knights of Columbus fair are on sale. The drawing will be on August 13th and each ticket is \$5.00. There are twenty tickets to a book.

New Business: Fran mentioned that the Guilford Craft Fair is July 17th through July 19th and volunteers are needed to park cars. This is a fundraiser for the church. If interested, please contact Joe Nelly.

Deb mentioned that on July 4th at 2 pm the archdiocese was supporting a bell ringing. Per Father, St. George is participating. Deb stated that the archdiocese has a patriotic rosary on its website and perhaps we can do this at St. George. Fran said we are waiting for the plan and to table this for the next meeting.

Lena brought up having a meet and greet with council members. Fran said maybe an informal coffee combined with the pancake breakfast. Father said this could be a fall event which would attract more attendees.

Motion to adjourn – all approved.

Closing prayer by Father at 11:45 a.m.

Our Next Meeting is June 7, 2026, after the 10:30 a.m. mass