

Parish Council Meeting of 1/8/2026
Minutes ~ Final as of March 12, 2026



Present: Marc Albanese, Gerald Frank, Matthew Gebhardt, Cheryl Hine, Timothy Houseknecht, Adele Jay, Edward Koh, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Kathleen Rourke, Sheila Ryan, Karen Salino, and Barbara Willers

Excused: William Carroll, Liz Coats, Sharon Dal Cero, Patricia Dickerson, Jacqueline Leidenfrost, Duane Porterfield, and David Kaiser

Guest: Susan Guydosh

Opening Prayer: by Fr. Bernard

Minutes: Minutes of November 13, 2025, meeting approved with corrections.

Committee Reports (*see reports at the end*):

All committee chairs are reminded to include all parish council members along with Eileen and Susan when they send out their reports.

Word committee (education and evangelization) – Duane Porterfield:

- On Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m. (following morning Mass) Matthew Kuhner from St. Bernards, VP and academic dean, will provide a talk on “*Evangelization and Catechesis: Proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel with Joy, Humility, and Love*” as part of St. B’s “On the Road.”
 - Cheryl Hine expressed her appreciation for everyone who encouraged her to arrange for this presentation, particularly Fr. Bernard.
 - Dr. Kuhner agreed that we can record his presentation and possibly post it on our website (to be announced after the event). Tim and others will work with Susan to make this possible
 - Sheila, Susan, and Gerry Todi will help to set up the annex for this program. Annette Hade is donating donuts
 - Notices have been sent to other parishes in our area. Susan will send out a email reminders.
 - If there are good numbers for this event, we could tentatively have another featuring Lisa Lickona S.T.L., assistant professor of systematic theology at St. Bernards, maybe during Lent?

Worship committee (liturgy) – Barbara Willers:

- Christmas attendance: 207 at St. James (4 pm 12/24, church capacity of 164), 58 at Holy Cross (8 pm 12/24), and 34 at St. Francis (9 am 12/25). Total 299 compared to 264 last year.
- Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary: 23 at St. Francis (vigil), 26 at St. James (9 am), and 23 at HC (10:30 am).
- Confessions in December were not well attended
- On March 18 the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered for the elderly of our parish (we have quite a few over 90 years old) and those who have serious illnesses.
- The Lent schedule will be the same as last year:

- Ash Wed. is early this year, Feb. 18
- Mass with ashes at St. Francis 8:30 am.
- Distribution of ashes at HC at 12:10 pm. And at St. James at 7 pm. Will Gerry Frank and Kathleen do these distributions?
- Stations of the Cross during Lent: 6 pm on Thursdays at HC with soup after, and 3 pm on Fridays at St. J.
- Father will be away from the end of Jan., returning March 3 or 4.
 - Fr. Brendan will provide daily Mass, Tuesday through Friday, when available. Possibly a communion service on the days he cannot?
 - Sunday Masses will be provided by Fr. Brendan Buckley, Fr. Dan Condon, and Fr. Norbert D'Souza (see report for dates for each)
 - Friday confessions/conversation will be cancelled while Fr. Bernard is gone.
- Sunday liturgy songs were discussed, especially Gloria at St. James.
- B&G requested to provide a handicapped area at St. F. similar to the one at St. J. Important to leave front railing as people use it when returning from communion.
- Communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation was discussed. The diocese requires personal confession times as well.

Witness committee (social action) – Gerry Frank

- Parish will continue to collect donations for the various food pantries in our communities.
- The report on the Seneca County Christmas project was well-received (see report for details).
- Karen reported that there were LOTS of hats, gloves, and other items given on the hat/mitten tree at St. James. There were all taken to Catholic Charities in Ithaca for distribution.
- Gerry is seeking more people to help with the card writing to homebound members of our parish. Each month of the year one volunteer sends out a little note or card to 12 homebound members of our parish. Parish will cover postage if the writer cannot. Parishioners who receive the cards are very appreciative of them.
- Hygiene month is coming up in May for food pantry collections.
- Feb. 1 is Souper Bowl Sunday (the Sunday before the Super Bowl on Feb. 8) where we collect food items for pantries. There will be baskets set out for the donations.

Fellowship committee (social activity and communication) – Sheila Ryan

- The committee has not met but they remain active with events in the parish. For example, they will be helping with the presentation next week by St. Bernard on the Road.
- They didn't do an event around decorating the Christmas trees at St. James as last year had low participation.
- They are considering a table games event on Sunday afternoons, at each church or maybe just at St. F?
- Karen reported that the parish directory will be delivered to St. J. soon. Only people who had their photos taken will get a copy.

Buildings and Grounds:

- The radiators at the HC rectory are being installed by Hubbards.

- No parking signs have been requested for the St. James parking lot which is used by a lot of community members and other churches. The diocese says that people park in a church lot at their own risk if there are “No Parking” signs posted.
- Building coordinators to date: Tim Houseknecht, David Kaiser, Bill Carroll, Ray Zajack, and Gerry Frank.
- Norm’s last day as B&G chair will be after the Jan. 22 meeting.

Finance Council:

- A new regional finance director, Dan Hofford, started today and was not available to attend this meeting. He looks forward to getting to know us all beginning with the March parish council meeting.

Other Business:

- Include PC meeting dates and approved minutes (minus reports) on the parish’s Council web page. The minutes will remain up for one year maximum or be removed as each new one is posted.
- On January 7, 2026, Pope Leo XIV appointed The Most Reverend John S. Bonnici, S.T.L., S.T.D., to become the next bishop of Rochester, succeeding The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano. Bishop Bonnici will be installed as the diocese’s tenth bishop at a Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, scheduled for March 19, 2026.

Closing Prayer: Father led the council in the Eternal Rest prayer in remembrance of the many recent deaths in our parish.

Next meeting: March 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Annex
Tim will not be in town for this meeting so Karen will chair it.

Future meeting dates in 2026: May 14 and June 11.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke.