

Saint George's Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2025

Present: Father Dillon, Yolande Eldridge, Jody Fay, Fran Wainer, Debra Falvey, Noreen Wolleben, George Goulet, Regina Beausejour, Maria Hacker, Mikayla Scali (youth rep)

Absent: Maggie Bruno, Bob Keiser, Val Campanelli, Emily, Ed Pelligrino

The meeting began at 11:45 am with an opening prayer from Father Dillon.

Yolande: Minutes were approved with minor corrective revisions.

Father Dillon: Halloween was very busy at the rectory. Father gave out 880 pieces of full-sized candy bars starting at 4:30 pm. They ran out of candy after 1 ½ hours.

Thanksgiving sharing is underway and Mikayla said we have about 630 turkeys as of this morning. Fran stated that we exceeded the donations of turkeys and monetary donations this year. Thanksgiving luncheon is coming. Sister Kathleen is hosting about 60 people. Advent is coming up and people are signing up to light the candles. OCIA will be recognized next week in a special ceremony at Mass. Father mentioned that the art for the Parish Christmas card has been selected and Christmas donations have been received.

Fran (for Donna): There was an October 8th meeting for children to understand reconciliation. On November 22nd there will be another program which will run from 9 am to noon. 494 children are enrolled in the Faith Formation Program. This is on par with last year when 520 were enrolled. Donna is following up on the Saint Carlos Acutis exhibit. We are just waiting on dates, exhibits, posters, miracles plus video. Yesterday, there was an Advent Event where 105 families participated. There will be an event for Lent. Next year on April 25th, 2026, Father will have confirmation. There will be two dates for First Communion. April 26th, 2026, and May 3rd, 2026, respectively.

Mikayla (Youth Rep): There is a group chat for the Peer Ministry, but many are not participating. Sign Up Genius has helped a bit. The in-person meetings are in Branford, and most do not want to attend. The goal is to try to get Guilford, Madison and Branford to meet at Saint John Bosco, so we have one large youth ministry. Jenny Smith is the Youth Coordinator. They had a retreat last weekend, but the turnout was low. There are plans for a larger retreat in February. Yolande mentioned that doing an activity is preferable to having a meeting. Maria will email Donna about strengthening the youth ministry.

Yolande: The shirts and hats are not yet online. We will plan a date for the council to work tables to distribute online orders (labelled individually in plastic bags). Deb and Yolande have selected hats, short sleeve shirts and long sleeve shirts. Athletic garb will be part of this. Fran mentioned that online ordering must be via credit card and an online ordering link will be posted on our website. If there are any real defects, the council will handle this on a per case basis. The minimum number to run the shirts is 25.

The by-laws need to be revised to address absences and to work on term limits. Member expectations should be addressed in the by-laws. Jody, George, Maggie and Regina volunteered to assist Yolande and Deb with this task.

Father mentioned that there are two vacancies and requested that each council member email him names of people interested in serving. (Note: There are now 3 vacancies). No relatives of existing council members are eligible to serve. Yolande has an excel spreadsheet denoting each person's service and terms.

New Business: Maggie requested an update on the bricks program. Father said the bricks are coming in during the spring. Fran is working on this and we need a deadline as the contractor is ready to install them.

Closing prayer by Father at 12:22 pm

Our Next Meeting is January 25, 2026, after the 10:30 am mass.