

Respectfully submitted by Lorraine Jordin

Meeting: January 12, 2026

Call to order 4:00 PM by Executive Officer, **Cathy Rossi**

In attendance: Pastor Rev. Klevence, Cathy Rossi, Jared Browne, Maria Colello, Tina Gordon, Lorraine Jordin, Betty Wisgirda, Georgia Bresch. Absent: Alexis Sclama.

Opening Prayer

Minutes - Minutes of the previous November Council Meeting, approved as previously distributed, and were posted on the Parish website.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

A. Financial Report from Finance Committee: Six months FY2026 total income is \$1,336k and total expenses are \$1,075k for a net surplus of \$261k. Total income is \$52k more than last year; total expenses are \$220k less than last year mainly due to \$288k less in capital expenditures. As a result, the net surplus is \$220k more than in the same period last year. Total income is 6.1% over budgeted projections and total expenses are 2.6% over budgeted projections. Total current assets are \$2,762k; \$344k higher than in the same period last year.

- Safety and Security - The project for protective film and etching of doors of St. Ann's, Delaney Hall, and Masterson Center has been completed. Cost was approximately \$50k.

B. Pastor's Report:

- Parish Center Project – permit for the septic solution was received, work will need to be priced. Permission has been received from the Diocese to proceed with a Feasibility Study and a Capital Campaign.
- Adoration Pro will be installed and will be used for Adorers' scheduling and reminders.
- CPR classes are being organized by Sr. Loretta through Chief McLaughlin (OV Chief)
- Security Committee is in the process of being coordinated and is to be headed up by Deacon Rich Juliano.
- The *Hallow App* was discussed (Hallow provides a simple, easy-to-use mobile app that helps foster a relationship with God and the peace of prayer through guided prayer and meditation). A presentation will be made in the future to the parish by the members of Hallow.
- The need for emergency protocol if a member of the congregation falls ill during Mass services was discussed.

C. Council Committee on Pastoral Council By-Laws/Revisions Update: The final draft of the *Constitution and Pastoral Council By-Laws* was reviewed, discussed and approved by council members and will be forwarded to the Dioceses for final approval. When approved, the *By-Laws* will be published to the parish website.

D. Recruiting Potential New Council Members- Bulletin insert will remain for any interested parishioners.

E. Question/Suggestion Box for Parish - Council agreed to try a **suggestion box** to be left in the vestibule of the churches. Any suggestion made **MUST** include parishioner's name and contact information.

F. Committee Updates

1. Lorraine/ *Building and Grounds* and *St. Vincent de Paul Society*

SVDP:

- New Building- Two SVdP members attended Capital Campaign meeting.
- Giving Tree helped over 300 families and over 400 children who each received \$50 in gift cards, most generous Christmas ever for us with mostly parishioners but also several businesses assisted us this year.
- Working on trying to get a young (high school) Vincentian group and have met with Jared (Youth Ministry) for efforts moving forward.

Building & Grounds: (Doug Schultz)

- Delaney Hall has gotten a fresh coat of paint in the hall.
- Currently working on pricing for replacing ALL of the outlets and switches in Masterson. Mostly because they are a safety concern since they are so old and some are loose. The old outlets are yellow and the new outlets will all be white. If/When replaced we will be making sure that they are also protected within the wall and connections properly with electrical tape. The intention is to bring the school into the 21st century and add an updated outlet in each room that has the option for USB-A or USB-C plug ins so that anyone can plug a phone charger cord in to charge their phone.
- Obtaining 3 or 4 bids for HVAC units at OLG.

2. Betty/Liturgy Committee

Christmas decorations have been removed. Holy week events are being organized.

3. Tina /Christian Formation: Religious Education Department Updates:

- We have 37 students from St. Ann and 6 from St. Luke making First Penance on January 31, noon at St. Luke's. We will have a Spanish speaking priest in attendance. I have requested one or two Spanish speaking adults to give directions if needed.
- The Winter and Early Spring are filled with retreats.
- We are hoping to get a bus together for the Pilgrimage of the Cross on March 28. This is a YM event, but we invite the Confirmation and OCIA classes as well.
- OCIA will begin dismissing to Break Open the Word during the 10:30 Mass starting next Sunday.
- The Rite of Election for Catechumens is scheduled for February 22 in Dover.

4. Jared/Youth Ministry

- The Youth ministry held a movie night on Friday, Dec. 19th, watching *A Christmas Carol*, with a short faith talk connecting the movie with Catholic teachings on the love of neighbor vs love of money, along with a craft activity making Christmas cards for homebound parishioners, which were sent the following Tuesday. 13 youths attended. Our next scheduled activity is a game and activities night to be held Friday, January 23rd. Our roster for total youths who have expressed interest is now at 32. We will also begin promoting the youth Pilgrimage of the Cross scheduled for March 28.
- We have also been working to gather information on how many families are interested in sending children to Damascus Summer Camp in Emmitsburg, MD. No definite number and few if any names. In the event of cost being a concern for the families, I looked into what financial aid Damascus offers in addition to what is being provided for the first 100 Diocese of Wilmington children, but they handle it on a case-by-case basis and require an email to them at financiaid@damascus.net, and they can see <https://www.damascus.net/faq> for more information. We have previously posted in the bulletin that, if there was enough interest from within the parish, we could look into arranging bus transport to the camp, and the question of bus transport back was also raised given the distance. The camp requests parents attend the closing Mass at the end of camp, meaning that bus transport back would more than likely require an additional bus trip to get parents to the camp as well as a fuller bus to get children and parents back to Bethany, which is both a logistical challenge and a significant additional expense. In summation, without an idea of how many families would be involved, or how feasible transportation would be, we have no way of knowing what resources and planning would be required to facilitate this and therefore cannot make any recommendation on further assistance by the parish at this time.

5. Maria/Hispanic Community

- Very successful Lady of Guadalupe Mass (over 500 attended) and Celebration in December. An article by Cathy Rossi was published in this month's *Dialog* with pictures of the Mass and Celebration.
- Baptism Classes started 1-12-26.
- Request has been made for 3-4 bilingual priests for confession during Holy Week

6. Cathy/ Hospitality Committee

- December 14 Christmas Pageant was cancelled due to weather.
- Tuesday, 1-20 Christian Unity Prayer Service at 5:30 , reception to follow in Delaney Hall.
- Sunday 1-25 after the 10:30 Mass – Saint/Immigration presentation. It is open to the parish.
- Saturday 1-31 First Penance at St. Lukes.
- Sunday 2-1 Pot Luck at 5:00 p.m. in Delaney Hall. Please bring a dish (main course, side, dessert) to share.

7. Social Concerns Committee – Tina Gordon

<i>English as a Second Language</i>	<i>Maria Colello</i>		<i>Pastoral Council Member</i>	<i>Maria Colello no update</i>
<i>Always Hope</i>	<i>Linda Flynn</i>	<i>202.510.4214</i>	lflynndc64@gmail.com	<i>Always Hope meets regularly providing support to those who are grieving. They will have an update for our next meeting.</i>
<i>Children's Book Project</i>	<i>Joanne Busalacchi</i>	<i>302.539.3818</i>		<i>As of 1/8/26 no update, but gave an extensive one in September.</i>
<i>Grief and Bereavement Group</i>	<i>Dan Cowell, MD</i>	<i>302.537.0769</i>		<i>This initiative is in its 11th year. Currently, 10 to 12 members. They meet 4 more times through March 2026, then resume in September of 2026.</i>
<i>Respect Life</i>	<i>Gloria Huber</i>	<i>410-292-3465</i>	<i>gloriajhuber1313@gmail.com</i>	<i>No update until their February 2 meeting. They were waiting for a Ministry Open House to provide updates and would like to know if there will be one.</i>
<i>Salt and Light Committee</i>	<i>Barbara McCully</i>	<i>301-461-1538</i>		<i>"2025 was an excellent year for the Southern DE Education Foundation. It is an offshoot of Salt and Light. They gave \$53,000 in scholarship to 25 students for workforce training certs. They just had a thank you luncheon for 35 volunteers and a brainstorming session for ideas for fundraising and improvement.</i>
<i>School Mentoring</i>	<i>Nancy Smith</i>	<i>302.732.1520</i>	nancy.smith@irsd.k12.de.us	<i>From September: Unfortunately, we have not brought back the mentoring program for our school. I am not sure if it will be brought back or not. I have not heard anything about it returning as of 2/5/25.</i>
<i>Tiny Tots</i>	<i>Mary Martinez</i>	<i>302.541.4964</i>	oceanviewmary@mchsi.com	<i>No update as of 1/8/26, but did give one last September.</i>
<i>Voice of the Faithful</i>	<i>Virginia Sullivan</i>	<i>302.541.0254</i>	vlsde@aol.com	<i>No update at this time, but sent me a summary of their purpose. She will have an update for us in the future.</i>

Next Meeting: **February 23, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m.**

Closing Prayer and Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 PM.

Pastoral Council Members: Rev. John Klevence, Pastor, Rev Joseph Dovari, Associate Pastor

Lorraine Jordin, Cathy Rossi, Alexis Sclama, Betty Wisgirda (4 parishioners) Jared Browne, Maria Collelo, Tina Gordon (3 parish employees)