

ST. BRENDAN PASTORAL COUNCIL – MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2025

PRESENT: Fr. Mark Betti, Fr. Dass, Kenneth Conn, Madeline Dubas, Ginny Grant, Gerald Greco, Celeste Korpon, John LeFebvre, Lisa McCann, Bob McGahran, Bert McGoff, Pat McLaughlin, Charles McShane, Sandra Nelson, Carol Rowane, Vincent Russo, Michael Schmid. **EXCUSED:** Jean Brieze, Ada Flores, Bob Houser, Laura Kniaz, Thomas Ocasio. **GUEST:** Rick Skorny

1. Ginny Grant welcomed the members. Fr. Mark opened the meeting with a prayer at 9:40 am.
2. The Minutes of the meeting on October 2, 2025, were approved as written.
3. **FINANCE:** Rick Skorney reported in the absence of Bob Houser. We presently have \$531,841 in our checking account, with \$293,119 in the general checking for operational use of which \$10,000 is for restricted usage. We also now have \$200,550 in our savings/reserve account. We are tracking on budget.
 - Two bills upcoming will be \$6,770 for a new control board for the church sound system and about \$100,000 for the camera and locking system for SMM on which approximately \$94,000 has already been paid. After final testing is completed in mid-December, the final payment should be approximately \$90,000. Funds are available to cover both of these expenses.
 - Finances are sound.
 - Replacement of HVAC system completed.
 - For this quarter, three extra mortgage payments will be made each month.
4. **PASTOR'S REPORT:**
 - Parish Festival should produce a modest profit. Not all bills have been received. 2026 Festival will be scheduled as in previous years.
 - It was hoped that we could take a year off following the payoff of the loan on the new rectory before acquiring more debt. However, the land became available and we were given right of first refusal. We had to acquire the land now or risk losing the land adjoining our property.
 - Architect has confirmed that the 12 acres will accommodate enough new parking to bring it up to code, create a 4th pond, and accommodate a new church the size of the cathedral.
 - The new loan could be paid off in approximately three to four years. It has been decided that we will pay off the current debt and then take a year off to regroup finances. Current Pastor, Fr. Mark, has 4-1/2 years left on his term (which can also change). Fr. Mark's intention is any type and design of a possible new building be left to the new Pastor.
 - Questions raised as to the possibility of adding temporary space in the interim. Tabled for future discussion.
 - Questions raised on conducting a parish census to update contact information on all parishioners. Problems have occurred with wrong addresses and telephone numbers. Noted that SMM is updating contact information for all involved in this ministry. Update information for only Ministries? One possibility is that a bulletin blast (to be recommended by Pastoral Council) would be sent out requesting parishioners to update their records. Fr. Dass suggested that each group update the contact information of their members as well.
 - **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Electronic Surveillance and Security System—presented by Rick Skorny in absence of Tom Ocasio. On November 17 at 2:00 pm, testing of the cameras will take place throughout the campus. Testing will include use of firearms. Signage stating police training in progress will be posted along Ocean Highway. Law enforcement will be on hand. Some features will be functional in mid-December. All will be functional in January. Meetings with Ministry Leaders were held this past weekend instructing them on the use of the new locking system.
 - Senior Resource Fair—Thank you, Charlie, for your work on this project. Positive feedback from attendees. Fifteen attended on Saturday, 23 following the 8:00 am Mass, 45 following the 9:30 and none attended after the 11:00. A survey was taken of interest in future programs. Summarizing the results of the survey was complex. See attached report. Thank you to Carlos and Gerry Greco for their help with logistics and for cleanup thanks go to Carlos, Gerry, Mike Schmid, Celeste Korpon and some of our Hispanic parishioners.
 - Parish Annual Summary—Suggested Pastoral Council be added to Summary. Ministries being requested to update their sections for 2025. Rusty will update parish specific activities. Deadline for completion is December 15. Layout of last year's report will again be used with statistics updated for 2025.
 - Pastoral Council election is proceeding on schedule. Presentations were made at the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am masses by Council members Celeste Korpon, Mike Schmid and Ada Flores with Madeline Dubas (bilingual). Applications have been submitted by three Council members whose terms are expiring in December. More applicants are needed. Bulletin and blast/ application announcements are continuing through November 9.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Recap of Parish Fair and Raffle—All remaining tickets were sold for \$50 each. A total of \$2,300 was collected. First prize was \$1,150, Second prize was \$690 and Third prize was \$460.
6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - St. Michael Ministry—See attached report submitted by Jeanne Miller in absence of Tom Ocasio. Rick Skorny presented Council with quote of \$17,000 for installation of 13mm ballistic film to be applied to all doors leading into Gathering Space and those into the Sanctuary. If applied to the outside, life expectancy is 3 years; if inside expectancy is 10 Years. Not feasible to apply to stained glass windows. It was noted that the doors leading into the Sanctuary will be also locked by the new electronic system. Council was asked to recommend installation prior to submitting quote to the Diocese for approval. Vote taken with Council resulted in 16 for and 1 opposed. Motion to recommend the installation carried.
 - Buildings and Grounds—See attached report. Roof and leak repairs have been completed. HVAC system completed.
 - Knights of Columbus—See attached report. New Military Prayer Board with protective cover, along with service emblems to dress up wall, have been sent to the Pastor for approval.
 - Columbiettes—See attached report.
 - Faith Formation—See attached report.

- Communications—See attached report.
- Liturgy—No report. Next meeting scheduled for November 20.
- Hispanics—No report.

7. **NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 4 FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM MASS in the McGivney Room.**
8. **Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am with Fr. Mark leading closing prayer.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS – November, 2025

SAINT MICHAEL MINISTRY REPORT TO PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL , November, 2025

The Saint Michael Ministry responded to two (2) incidents during the month of October

1. Sunday, October 19, 2025 at approximately 7:30 a.m., Father Mark was approached by an individual in the Gathering Space who approached him, offered his hand to shake, and was profuse in thanking him for all he had done for him. Father Mark responded, “It was entirely my pleasure” but did not recognize him or know what he was talking about. The individual turned to walk out of the sliding double doors at just before 7:35 AM and departed using the sidewalk along the side of the parish library/columbarium. The individual was, under North Carolina law, carrying a firearm on his side. This is known as “open carry”. Father notified the Saint Michael Ministers on duty.

The Saint Michael Ministry, along with Father Mark, will be working to develop an appropriate response if this same issue arises in the future.

2. Sunday, October 26, 2025 at approximately 8:10 a.m., Security Ministers Jeanne Miller and Steve Alessio were in Section 6 (bell tower side, nearest the wall and the altar. A woman in the pew in front of us suddenly fell over on her side, going unconscious. The Saint Michael Medic Ministers were alerted and responded. Ministers Barbara Friedrich, Peggy Dotson and Mike Leestma attended to her. 9-1-1 was called, Security Minister Rick Skorny brought the transport chair and equipment bag to the location. The patient was removed to the bell tower and was met by EMS. She was transported to the hospital without further incident.

On October 29, 30, 31 and November 1, the Saint Michael Ministry, in conjunction with Father Mark, gave a presentation to Ministry Leaders regarding the pending changes to accessing church facilities. Ministry Leaders learned about the new software and “App” that will be downloaded to iPhones/Smartphones that will give them access. They also learned about the expanded camera system to include Artificial Intelligence (AI) that will recognize certain threats and identify “trip and falls”. Over 40 individuals attended. This same presentation will be given at Father Mark’s Staff Meeting on November 18. The Saint Michael Ministry will be conducting “training” on Monday, November 17 to teach the AI cameras to recognize any “anomalies” such as a “trip and fall”. The Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office, Shallotte Police Department and NC State Highway Patrol will be assisting us that day.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

HVAC: Reviewing Upgrade to Current Service/ Maintenance contract. Upgrade recommended due to the age of existing units. Most are either at the end of their lifecycle expectancy or past it.

Janitorial: Nothing new to report..

Plumbing: Nothing new to report.

General: Work continues repairing kneelers that are damaged, weeding and misc. repairs around the campus as they arise.

Parish Inventory:

Roads & Grounds: Received and are reviewing proposals from 2 contractors to mow the newly acquired Land.

Roof:

Received quotes to address 2 issues:

1. Damaged / Missing Shingles
2. Address leak in Gathering Space

Misc.: Have fully integrated the use of a preventive maintenance plan/schedule for routine maintenance activities.

Fire Alarm / Sprinkler System: Nothing to report.

Facilities Look Ahead

- Continuing with Preventative Maintenance of all mechanical systems.
- Install window coverings in Conference Room # 2 in MJMPC
- Repair damaged ductwork in Gathering Space
- Weekly set up in Parish Hall for Faith Formation

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Report for November 6, 2025

- October 3 -- Knights prayed the rosary for life prior to daily Mass.
- October 12 -- Knights attended Mass dedicated to deceased Knights and Columbiettes before the communion breakfast.
- October 13 -- Monthly Council meeting was held and three new parishioners were installed
- On October 5 from 2:30 till 3:30 the Knights participated in a silent prayer on the highway in front of church. We were joined by parishioners from Southport.
- In November, the Knights will be praying the rosary for life prior to the Mass at 8 am on November 7 and also ½ hour before all Masses on 11/29 and 11/30.
- The Knights 4th degree assembly will be hosting our annual veteran’s day dinner on November 8 at 5:30.
- The 4th degree assembly will also hold a veterans recognition ceremony after the 9:00 am Mass on Tuesday, 11/11. All are welcome.
- The officers and brother Knights would like to wish all parishioners a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

COLUMBIETTES

Columbiettes November Parish Council Meeting Report

- Inducted 2 new members at our October meeting.
- Had members Participate in the life chain event Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
- Coordinated with the Creative Spirit group to provide hats and Scarves to compliment the Knight of Columbus Kids to Coats Drive.
- Held a Card Party at OIB Feast as a fundraiser to support charities for the year.
- Will be recruiting new Columbiettes Members on 11/8 and 11/9 after masses.

FAMILY CENTERED FAITH FORMATION—2025-2026 School Year

- The first session of Children's Faith Formation was on October 5th. We had 113 children attend.
- Our happy news of the new starting time of 11 AM is very successful. The children arrive early and on time to begin their sessions with the Catechists.
- On Sunday, November 2 we had the Children's Faith Formation session. We had 118 children attend plus 7 more Registration Forms completed.
- Bibles were donated to children in Grades 3 through 8 for usage during our sessions. It was a successful morning filled with faith and joy.
- Our new Catechists (5) are excellent with the children.....what a blessing to St. Brendan's! Our total number of students who are registered and attend the sessions is 151 and growing!

We would like to acknowledge Carlos for doing a great job in setting up the classrooms for each session!

Blessings, Diane and Tom Nagle

COMMUNICATIONS:

- My Parish app traffic increase on the following tabs:
World News 40%
Bulletin 3%
Directory 42%
- Weekly Email Blast: 11 new contacts added & 2 deleted due to them moving.

SENIOR HEALTH CARE FAIR:

PROGRAM INTEREST SURVEY 2026 PROGRAMS

1 = Very Interested - D – Alzheimer's Dementia, Memory care

E – Hospice, Palliative Care

2 = Some Interest – Advance Directives, Power of Attorney

3 = Limited Interest

4 = No Interest

- A) Advance Directive For NC 4, 4.4, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1=20 2.2 score____
- B) Healthcare Power of Attorney 4, 3,2,2,2, 4, 1,4,,1, 1, 1, 1, 1 = 27 score 2.07____
- C) Advance Care Planning 1, 1,1,4, 1, 2, 2, 2, 4, 1, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1_ = 28_ 1.6 score_
- D) Alzheimer's, dementia, memory care _1, 1,1,1,1,1, 4, 2, 1, 1, 1,2,1, 1, 1_ = 20 1.0 score____
- E) Hospice Care Palliative Care __1, 2,1, 1,2, 1,1, 4,2, 2,1, 1_ = 19 1.0 score____
- F) OTHER SUGGESTION for Program ____In Home Care, Help others in need: hungry, poor, sick. Visiting homebound

21 Program Interest Surveys Submitted

Think of Golf low score wins a 1 = Very Interested

4 = No interest 2 = Some and 3 = Limited Interest
