

ST. BRENDAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

CORRECTED MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2025

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

1. Ginny Grant welcomed the members. Fr. Mark opened the meeting at 9:37 am with the Lord's Prayer.
2. The minutes of the November 6, 2025, were approved as written.
3. **FINANCE:** In the absence of Bob Houser, Fr. Mark indicated that we are trending in the correct direction.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Update on AI enabled Electronic Surveillance and Lock System –**

- Currently installing electric door locks; working thru bugs; Sanctuary doors will close quietly.
- January 7, 2025 is the scheduled final acceptance test at St. Brendan beginning at 2:00 pm. Police and Sheriff's Dept. will be present to assist in testing. Since firearms will be utilized to program the camera system, all Church activities will be cancelled for the remainder of the day. Food Pantry not affected because they end by 12 Noon. Campus, in its entirety will be closed.
- Incident with gas leak occurred and was corrected. Apparently, noticed days before by several parishioners but not reported. Could have caused major damage. Repair board in Usher's room should be used to notify Facilities Manager Jerry Greco of problems detected. Note to parishioners:

SEE SOMETHING, SMELL SOMETHING: SAY SOMETHING!

- Ballistic film expense for installation on Gathering Space glass approved by Parish Finance Council. Still awaiting approval from the Diocese
- **Parish Annual Summary** – Charles McShane is getting updates for 2025 from all ministries. Deadline for input is December 16. Will work with Madeline to finish project. Estimated release in January.
- **Pastoral Council Elections** will be held on December 6 and 7 at all Masses. Ushers and SMM will distribute ballots as parishioners enter the church and will collect them during the regular offertory collections. Ballots are to be two-sided, bilingual and with candidate pictures. (Update: ballots were one-sided with pictures but as separate ballots for English and Spanish.) Seven candidates have applied to fill four vacancies. Announcements were made in both the printed bulletin and online issue; candidates were announced in the online issue and through separate blast emails. Ballots will be counted on Monday, December 8. Sandy Nelson will supervise the counting of ballots and notify Fr. Mark of results.
- Pat McLaughlin, whose term is expiring, was thanked for her years of service to the Council. Three current members have applied for a second term.
- **Legion of Mary** will conduct its first Cancer Rosary on January 27. More details coming in January.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Parish Census** -- The "My Parish" online app will allow parishioners to log in to update contact information. Software is currently being finalized. When completed, announcement will be made that it is active, and a link will be sent out to all parishioners to access the directory to make changes.
- **Fr. Dass's 25th anniversary of Ordination** - Plans are currently being made to celebrate the event on December 27 and 28. Receptions will be held following the 4:00 pm Mass on the December 27 and following the 11:00 am Mass on December 28.
- **Sheriff's Department** - Fr. Mark noted that, prior to Covid, St. Brendan's recognized the contributions of the Sheriff's Department in some way—at Mass, and with a certificate of appreciation. Recognition of their service to St. Brendan should again be implemented. Additional discussion was tabled while previous celebrations are researched. Timetable suggested as May, 2026.

6. **PASTOR'S REPORT –**

Update on security – a catastrophic failure occurred at another parish which resulted in the pastor being asked to resign. Apparently, under the previous pastor a key card, which allowed access to the parish school, was issued to a registered sex offender, who was then arrested. Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection is formulating new policies for building access in all parishes to prevent a recurrence. All persons being granted access to any St. Brendan facilities will be required to undergo Safe Environment training which includes a background check. Dr. John Pendergrass of that office was most impressed when informed of our new security system.

- Christmas Mass schedule has been changed. Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4:00 pm (Eng) and 6:00 pm (Eng). The 8:00 pm Mass in Spanish has been RESCHEDULED. Christmas Day schedule will be the regular Sunday schedule—8:00 am (Eng), 9:30 (Eng), 11:00 am in Spanish.
- December Communal Penance Services will be published in the bulletin. St. Brendan parishioners are invited to attend the 11:00 am service at Sacred Heart in Southport on Wednesday, December 10.
- Frs. Mark and Dass will attend a Priests' Assembly beginning on Tuesday morning, 1/13/2026, thru Thursday afternoon, 1/15/2026. Communion Services at 9 AM will be celebrated on Wed and Thurs.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS –

ST. MICHAEL MINISTRY – See attached report. Currently obtaining pricing for installation of ballistic glass for the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – See attached report.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – See attached report. In addition, four new Knights will be installed at the December 8 meeting. On December 13, The Knights will participate in the Wreaths Across America program. Approximately 35 wreaths will be laid in the Brunswick Funeral cemetery.

COLUMBIETTES – Participate in Shallotte Christmas Parade on December 6. RAIN OR SHINE.

FAMILY-CENTERED FAITH FORMATION – See attached report. Thank you to all.

LITURGY – Additional cantors are needed. Contact Sandy Payne if interested. On 12/18, the Enhancement Committee will decorate for Christmas. On 12/20, at 3:00 pm, the choir will perform an Advent concert, Canticles in Candlelight. They will also sing at the 6:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

HISPANIC – All are invited the Guadalupe celebration on Friday 12 December at 7 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS – See attached report.

8. **NEXT MEETING:** Will be held on Thursday, January 8, in deference to the New Year's Day holiday, following the 9:00 Mass. The meeting will be held in the McGivney Room in the back of the Parish Hall.
9. Fr. Mark closed the meeting at 10.00 am with a prayer to Our Lady.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

HVAC: Upgrade to Current Service/ Maintenance contract has been approved by the Finance Committee and Fr. Mark Upgrade recommended due to the age of existing units. Most are either at the end of their life cycle expectancy or past it. I am in the process of submitting this to the Diocese. Once approved I will advise.

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: Highland Roofing has completed the following work.:

- 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:

Minor glitches have been rectified.

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 Parsh Hall for Faith Formation

ST. MICHAEL MINISTRY

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

November 7 th the Knights prayed the rosary for life prior to daily mass

Knights prayed the Rosary for life before all masses November 29&30

November 10 Monthly Council meeting was held and three new parish men transferred in and two new members will be accepted on December 8

November 8 The Knights 4th degree assembly hosted their annual Veterans Day dinner Attended by 145 parishioners

November 11th the Knights 4th degree honor guard escorted Father Dazz before mass and was joined by council to honor our Veterans

In November the Knights will be praying the rosary for life prior to the first Friday mass at 8 am 11/7 and also 1/2 hour before all masses on 11/29 & 11/3

The officers and brother Knights would like to wish all parishioners a healthy, safe and holy Thanksgiving

On December 4 the Knights will hold their Christmas party

On December 6 th the Knights will march with their float in the Shallotte Christmas parade

On December 8 th. Monthly council meeting will be held following an exemplification of 3 new members

The officers and members of the Knights would like to wish all parishioners a Blessed and Merry Christmas

COLUMBIETTES

- Members Participated to write Christmas Cards for Seminarians
- Our members donated an amazing number of Books for Cry Room.
- We will Join the KOC to march in the Christmas Parade in Shallotte December 6th.
- We are all set for the Gift Card Raffle sale in November and December.
- We had many members participating in the Craft fair to sell Soup, Baked Goods and Raffle tickets.

We sold a lot of baked goods and raffle tickets.

- Our Christmas party will be December 11th, and we will have over 30 members attending.
- We are Ramping up for the Soup to Go in January
- Donated Christmas Gifts to a family in need for the holidays

Merry Christmas from The Columbiettes

FAMILY-CENTERED FAITH FORMATION

- Our next session for Children's Faith Formation is Sunday, December 7th. This is a very busy time for the Catechists and the children...Advent, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Christmas, Feast of the Three Kings. We are blessed to have 18 wonderful, faith-filled Catechists who show patience, caring and kindness to the children.
- We are preparing for the Feast of the Three Kings on January 4th. The Kings who are volunteers from the Hispanic Community will go to each class and distribute gifts to the children. The children know this is coming and are VERY EXCITED!

- We would like to thank Fr. Dass for visiting each class during the November session. The Catechists and the children were appreciative of his visit.

Merry and Blessed Christmas and a very Happy 2026!

Blessings, Diane and Tom Nagle

COMMUNICATIONS

- Online registrations are at a total of 61 since going live on our website on 2/11/25.
- My Parish app clicks have increased
Mass Videos 28 more, Bulletin 104 more, Readings 35 more, News 51 more & Mass Times 16 more.
- Constant Contact email blast:
16 New contacts added.
