

ST. BRENDAN PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2026

PRESENT: Fr. Mark, Fr. Dass, Jean Briese, Stephen Candela, Kenneth Conn, Madeline Dubas, Ginny Grant, Gerald Greco, Bob Houser, Laura Kniaz, Celeste Korpon, John LeFebvre, Bob McGahran, Bert McGoff, Charles McShane, Sandra Nelson, Thomas Ocasio, Carol Rowane, Vincent Russo, Paul Schaefer, Michael Schmid. **EXCUSED ABSENT:** Ada Flores. **GUEST:** Rick Skorny

1. Ginny Grant welcomed the members and introduced the newly-elected members, Stephen Candela and Paul Schaefer, and the newly-appointed Communications Liaison, Madeline Dubas.
2. Fr. Mark opened the meeting at 9:40 am with a prayer.
3. The minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2025, were approved as corrected.
4. The annual election of officers of the Pastoral Council was held by closed ballot. Fr. Mark certified the results of the election of officers as follows: Ginny Grant, President. Charles McShane as Vice President and Madeline Dubas, Secretary.
5. **FINANCE:** Continue making double payments to the land debt. Goal is to pay off in 5 years. We presently have \$622,000 in checking, \$414,000 in general checking for operational use and \$252,000 in savings/Reserve account. Tracking on our budget. Two bills upcoming will be just under \$10,000 for a new control board and \$100,000 for the camera and locking system, both of which we have funds to cover.
6. **PASTOR'S REPORT:**
 - As of 4:00 pm today, January 8, we will have a third priest in residence. Fr. Doug May, a Maryknoll Missionary, will be in residence in the rectory. Fr. May celebrated and con-celebrated Mass for us in late 2025. He will continue to report to the Maryknoll Missions, continue his missionary work, and will assist with the needs of the Deanery and St. Brendan's when available. He will serve initially for 6 months, with options to renew for another six months, then for 12 months.
 - Christmas Mass schedule as revised worked well. Only a 75-person overflow occurred at the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.
 - Attendance at Easter 2025 far exceeded seating capacity. 2026 schedule will be:
Easter Saturday – 4:00 pm regular Vigil Mass, 8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday – 7:00 am (no overflow expected), 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am with the 1:30 pm Mass celebrated in Spanish.
Knights of Columbus will provide parking assistance at the 4:00 pm, 8:30 am and 11:30 am Masses.
 - Ash Wednesday, February 18, Mass with ashes will be: 8:00, 10:00am, 4:00 and 6:00 pm. The 8:00 pm service will be in Spanish. NOTE: Our Food Bank will be closed on Ash Wednesday.
 - In 2014-2016 Parishioners voiced their needs. Resulted in the 2016 Vision Statement which Fr. Mark continued to implement since 2018 when he became Pastor. The 2016 Vision Statement is nearing completion. A new vision plan needs to be prepared which considers the use of the new land and addresses our greatest needs. Parishioners are to be asked for their input.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Rick Skorny presented an update on the AI enabled Electronic Surveillance & Lock System. System has been completely installed. Current software not as described. Now migrating to a new software program that will have all the required detections at no extra cost. Locking systems being installed today. Final testing to occur at end of month with final decision by Fr. Mark. Potential final cost approximately \$85,000.
- Ballistic film will not stop a bullet from penetrating glass. It prevents the glass from shattering. Options being researched for the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary include:
 - a. Install tempered glass inside the stained-glass windows, same as in the Gathering Space.

Would not shatter nor would it break through.

- b. Install ballistic glass, instead of ballistic film, to the inside of the stained-glass windows. Level one would stop all handguns; Level two would stop an AR 15 shot from on Hwy. 17, SMM considers it a better value to install ballistic glass. Installation to be on Sanctuary side; not sufficient space to install outside. Ballistic glass could be moved with stained-glass if needed. No change in the appearance of the windows. Further discussion was tabled.
- The Pastoral Council elections were successful in electing two new members to the Council, both with extensive involvement in the Parish. A full report will be filed for future reference.
 - Charlie McShane reported that the Parish Community Annual Summary is about 90% complete.
 - Fr. Dass reception following the 4:00 pm Mass was simple but fun. Fr. Dass was most pleased.
 - Details on the Parish Census online application are still not available.
 - The Legion of Mary will hold its first Rosary of Hope Prayer Service at 10:00 am on January 21.
 - There was no information available on the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- **St. Michael Ministry**—See attached report.
 - **Building and Grounds**—See attached report.
 - **Knights of Columbus**—See attached report. 95% done with Military Prayer Board. Fish Fry will be held on Friday, February 20.
 - **Columbiettes**—No written report. Soup to Go/bread being sold after 4:00 pm Mass thru January. Five potential new members for February installation.
 - **Family Centered Faith Formation**—See attached report.
 - **Liturgy**—No report.
 - **Hispanic**—no report.
8. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19.
 9. Fr. Mark adjourned the meeting at 10:36 am with a prayer.
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Management Report December 2025

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 lifecycle 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: Minor repairs in Men's room Parish Hall & Ladies Room Gathering space completed

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 in November

1 Damaged / Missing Shingles

2 Address leak in Gathering Spac

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.
- Dry & Wet test on Sprinkler system were performed. There Is a major issue with the FDC(Fire Department Connection) .The line from the building to the FDC is not holding pressure. There are only 2 options 1) Replace the entire underground piping 2) Move the FDC to the wall directly outside of the Sprinkler Room. The issue is currently under review by the Brunswick Bounty Fire Marshalls office and the Shallotte Fire Dept. The main concern with both agencies is the distance between the FDC and the Fire Hydrant. The code is vague and open to interpretation. Facilities has been in contact as recently as December 23 with both agencies and await their decision and direction.

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

Saint Michael's Ministry (SMM) Monthly Report - December 2025

Medical / Security Incidents

- One security incident was reported in December as follows:
Two ducks decided that the front entrance of the Gathering Space would be a good place to hang out. One day after the automatic doors were turned on, they walked in front of the automatic door, and it opened. Upon entering the Gathering Space, they decided to prove they were not house trained. The two visitors were lured back outside and cleanup followed. I believe they have now been happily relocated to the pond behind the Knock Center.

Integrated Security System

- Installation of the new Security System has continued. Necessary updates in the software operating system to enhance the overall system capabilities are being installed. Once updating has been completed, system testing will resume.
- Final hardware installations are scheduled for the week of January 5th. With final testing and system activation still projected for late January 2026.

New Business

- Installation of Security Film in the gathering space was approved by the Parish Finance Council. The necessary documents have been prepared to gain approval from the Diocese to proceed with the project. Installation has been scheduled for January 26th following final Diocese's approval.
- Additional pricing for installation of bullet-proof glass over the chapel's stained-glass windows is needed before making a final decision to proceed. This project will continue separately from the bullet resistant film installation project.

Knights of Columbus. Council 9039. Report. January, 2026

- December 5th, the Knights prayed the Rosary for Life prior to Mass.
- December 4th, Knights held their annual Christmas Party and raised \$470.00 for our Coats for Kids program.
- On December 6th, the Knights attended the Shallotte Christmas Parade with their float.
- On December 13th, the Knights and Assembly Honor Guard participated in the National Wreaths Across America at the Brunswick cemetery placing wreaths on the graves of veterans.
- The Knights will hold their monthly meeting on January 12 at 10:00 am.
- The Knights are currently building a new military honor wall in the gathering space with a new

showcase and are requesting any photos of active service personnel to display. Must be a 3 x 5 uniformed picture with name, rank, branch of service and contact information.

Respectfully submitted,
Grand Knight Kenneth Conn

Family-Centered Faith Formation—2025-2026 School Year

- On January 4th, 2026, we celebrated the Feast of the Three Kings with the Children of Faith Formation. There were 2 sets of 3 Kings from the Hispanic Community Youth Group under the direction of Catalino Olmedo who distributed gifts to the children from Pre-K to Grade 8. It was a successful day and the children were very happy!
- Special thanks to Bob Blanchette and the Knights of Columbus who will be replenishing the snacks for the students for the upcoming months. God bless them for their generosity and caring attitude to the children.

Upcoming events:

- February 1- our next session of Children's Faith Formation
 - February 21-Confirmation Retreat at St. Brendan's
 - February 28-First Confession (First Communion children)
 - March 21-Confirmation Mass with Bishop Luis
 - April 18- First Communion Day
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