

ST. BRENDAN PASTORAL COUNCIL – MINUTES OF MEETING APRIL 22, 2026

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

1. Ginny Grant welcomed the members. Fr. Mark opened the meeting at 9:39 am with a prayer.
2. Minutes of meeting held on March 19, 2026, were approved.
3. **FINANCE:** We presently have just under \$400K in our general checking account plus \$252,000 in our reserve/savings account. Bills still outstanding include: \$90K for camera and locking system; \$56K for safety glass in sanctuary, \$45K for main fire connection, \$13K for sound/audio system, and \$15K for new maintenance vehicle. Funds are available to cover these bills. We continue to make double payments plus on our land debt. We continue to be quite stable due to generosity of parishioners. Easter collection was \$54,544 for a total Easter Sunday collection of \$65,518.
4. **PASTOR'S REPORT:**
 - Fr. has asked Dave Lurix, Business Manager, to prepare an update on the status of the land loan.
 - Fr. Dass is on his four-week vacation in India. Returns end of April. Fr. Doug in Egypt until 9 May.
 - Fr. Dass will provide coverage at another parish all July and August for pastor away for continuing ed.
 - Fr. Doug will celebrate his 40th anniversary of ordination on June 7. On June 6, we will hold a sit-down dinner at 5:00 pm for Fr. Doug and his guests following the 4:00 pm Mass.
 - Parish Festival is May 3 and is a life event of the Parish. Pastoral Council will assist. Lisa is handling schedule of assignments,
 - On Monday 4 May after the 9:00 am Mass Fr. Mark will give a presentation on his trip to Assisi.
 - Fr. Mark will investigate development of a "Pilgrimage Passport".
 - Holy Week review
 - a. Perhaps change Mass on Holy Thursday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm to accommodate working parishioners.
 - b. Consideration being given to change in schedules for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Celebrate during Mass on appropriate Sunday. Need to better communicate changes to schedules for special events such as Easter weekend.
 - c. Revised Mass schedule for Easter weekend worked well with overflow needed! Some people chose to sit in parish hall, but there was room in the church. Same schedule to be used in 2027.
 - d. Scheduling of Stations of the Cross in English during Lent on Agenda for January 2027.
 - e. Update on Unified Clearing House—Fr. is in discussions with Lord's Food Pantry.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - **Update on Surveillance and Lock System** — see report.
 - **Update on Bullet Resistant Film and Glass**—see report.
 - **Review of Mass Schedule and Parking for Easter**—see Pastor's report.
 - **Parish Census**—currently in progress.
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - **Pastoral Plan Update**---Hispanic parishioners very active with spiritual growth opportunities as well as youth activities. Meeting of some kind every evening. It was noted that the diocese anticipates having 10% fewer priests in each deanery. Fr. Mark is actively recruiting retired priests to relocate to the Shallotte area.
 - **Synthesis and Data Report**---Jean Briese presented her report compiled using the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Parish Community Annual Summaries. Report attached. Demographics are changing—more generational, more cultural. Need to bring in more volunteers due to aging population—each ministry needs a "plan for succession" for its leadership. Ministry Fair already scheduled for 12-13

September 2026 to recruit more volunteers. Over 60 ministries available need; to encourage more participation/volunteers.

- **Deacon Bob McGahran's 45th Anniversary of Ordination as a Deacon.** Reception with cake and coffee will be held on Saturday, May 16, following the 4:00 pm Mass. Per Deacon Bob's request, no receptions on Sunday.
- **Roundtable Input/Future Agenda Items---**None.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS—

Building and Grounds—See attached report. Gerald Greco thanked the Knights of Columbus for their assistance during the campus shutdown and especially for painting of the parish hall. Six pews were removed and repaired.

St. Michael Ministry—See attached report.

Knights of Columbus---Three new members will be added at May meeting. Continue planning for the Memorial Day celebration in parish hall after the 9 AM Mass. Possibly have a “missing man table”.

Columbiettes---Scholarship Tea a success. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Mark and the Columbiettes for their help.

Family-Centered Faith Formation---See attached report.

Liturgy---May 30 is the last scheduled choir date at Sunday Mass. To return in September. Flowers will be removed from the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday. Looking to use the altar flowers to enhance the St. Francis Prayer Garden. Additional discussion required re. maintenance and water concerns. Next meeting 4/23.

Hispanics---No report.

8. **The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026.** Fr. Mark additionally reported that the National Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Thursday 7 May with lunch at Calvary Baptist Church. Lenten luncheons were so well attended that consideration is being given to scheduling more ecumenical luncheons to coincide with major events ie.; 4th of July, September 11.
9. **Fr. Mark closed the meeting at 10:36 am with a prayer.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

HVAC: Nothing new to report

Janitorial: Nothing new to report

Plumbing: Nothing new to report

General: Work continues repairing kneelers and pews that are damaged and misc. repair around the campus as they arise.

Parish Inventory:

Electrical: Lights and misc parts for the Church sign at the main entrance were replaced.

Roads & Grounds:

The ditch between the campus and the new purchased land was cut down . Also the ditches in the new land parcel were cut down. Mowing in that area will commence in the next few weeks. New statue of St Francis was installed along with updated Signage for the Newly Renamed St Francis Prayer Garden.

Roof: Highland Roofing has completed some minor repairs on the roof of the Main Church Building and Gathering space. Also completed their semiannual roof guard service, there are no issues at this time need to be addressed

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

Fire Alarm / Sprinkler System:

The permits have been issued for the replacement of the FDC(Fire Department Connection) . I am waiting for a timeline as to when this will take place.

April Campus Shut down :

- Thanks to the Volunteers from the Knights of Columbus, the walls in the Parish Hall were repaired and painted.
- Jan-Pro was on site during the week of April 6 to deep clean carpets in the Gathering Space and Sanctuary. Also buffed and polished floors in the Parish Hall to include all classrooms. Along with deep cleaning of all of the Restrooms in the Gathering Space and Parish Hall

Facilities Look Ahead:

- Continuing with Preventative Maintenance of all mechanical systems.
- Install window coverings in Conference Room # 2 in MJMPC
- Monthly set up in Parish Hall for Faith Formation

ST. MICHAEL'S MINISTRY:

Saint Michaels' Ministry (SMM) PAC Monthly Report – March 2026

Medical / Security Incidents

One Security Incidents occurred during March 2026 as follows:

On Sunday, March 15, 2026, at approximately 9:00 a.m., Saint Michael Minister Rick Skorny observed damage to the exterior of Door 300 in the Parish Hall. The plate that covered the holes for a previous handle had been peeled back in the lower left-hand corner, and screws were missing from the holes.

Saint Michael Minister Jeanne Miller had observed this damage last Sunday, March 8, 2026, when locking the church (although much less damage/peeling back of the plate). There was a clear attempt at additional damage.

Further investigation revealed that an attempt had been made to remove the plate by maintenance staff, resulting in additional damage to the door. The damage has been repaired, and no further action is required at this time.

Integrated Security System:

- Installation of the new Security Camera System campus-wide is complete. Beta testing of all areas of the new systems is ongoing. Any issues that are identified are being resolved to ensure optimal system functionality.
- Ongoing User Training of the Functional Coordinators and Ministry Representatives will continue as needed. The SMM Leadership Team provided on-site system user support throughout Holy Weeks, with very few issues being identified.
- Installation of Security Film in the gathering space has been completed. Final inspection and edge sealing is scheduled for completion on April 1st. As a reminder: Do Not stick anything (tape etc.) to the inside of the windows or doors as this could damage the film.
- We have received Diocese's approval for purchase and installation of the bullet-proof glass over the chapel's stained-glass windows. The vendor has been notified and materials have been ordered. Once the materials have been received, a timeline for installation will be established.

New Business:

SMM has been tasked with identifying possible options to address the utilization of restricted parking areas, during highly attended masses. Ariel footage of the parking areas campus-wide is being conducted to identify underutilized areas during these time periods. Recommendations to follow.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

- The Knights held their monthly meeting on April 13, 2026 and we introduced 2 men who will be joining our council in May. We will continue to invite all parishioners to join.

- The Knights assisted with parking on Easter Sunday and we are helping to refresh the parish hall with a coat of paint.
 - The Knights are saddened to report the death of one of our more active members, Retired Colonel Donald Whitfield, U.S.Army. His family is in our prayers.
 - We will be praying the rosary for life on Friday, May 1, at 8 am.
- Our next meeting will be held on May 11.
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COLUMBIETTES:

- Supported the KOC at the St Patrick’s Day Dinner in March.
 - Held our Meeting Via Zoom April 9th due to Church closure and Easter Travels.
 - April 18th we participated in the Columbiette National Day of Prayer to Pause at 10am and pray together in Person and Virtually.
 - The Scholarship Tea held on April 19th was a huge success. We Thank the Knights for their support in serving the refreshments and transporting the raffle baskets to the winners.
 - We plan on Initiating several new members at our May 14th Meeting.
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FAMILY-CENTERED FAITH FORMATION—2025-2026 School Year

- On Sunday, March 29th we had our session of Children’s Faith Formation. It was a special day because it was also our Food Drive for the Food Pantry. We were very pleased with the response and the many donations. Thank you to the families for their generosity.
 - Because Easter is the first Sunday of the month in April, there is no Children’s Faith Formation in April (the reason why there were two sessions in March)
 - The next important date is the First Holy Communion Mass on April 18th at 10 AM. The children are very excited and the Catechists are doing their best to prepare them for this special time in their lives.
 - The last Children’s Faith Formation session for the school year is May 3.
 - On May 10th at the 9:30 AM Mass, we will have the crowning of the Blessed Mother.
- This year has been a successful one. The “seeds of faith” were planted with each student and now we watch them grow. What a special blessing!
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**St. Brendan the Navigator Catholic Church
Who We Are Becoming: A 10-Year Parish Snapshot
Grounded in 2023–2025 Parish Community Data**

This one-page snapshot is designed to help the Parish Council move from reporting activity to discerning direction. It summarizes what the data is telling us about who St. Brendan is becoming—and what our 10-year vision should clearly name in response.

1. A Multi-Generational & Multi-Cultural Parish

What the data says - The parish is simultaneously aging and welcoming young families. - Anointings and funerals are increasing, while baptisms and faith formation point to future growth. - A large and vibrant Hispanic community contributes the majority of baptisms and includes many young families.

What the vision should say - St. Brendan is intentionally planning for all stages of life—children, youth, families, adults, and seniors. - The parish affirms cultural diversity as central, not peripheral, to its future. - Unity across generations and cultures is a defining priority for parish life and leadership.

2. A Parish with Future Growth Already Emerging

What the data says - Overall growth is steady and sustainable, not volatile. - Baptisms function as a leading indicator of future parish life, even when overall numbers are modest. - Sacramental participation varies year-to-year, with 2024 appearing as an outlier rather than a baseline.

What the vision should say - Planning will be guided by multi-year trends, not single-year fluctuations. - The parish will prepare before growth pressures become urgent. - Youth, family formation, and long-term vitality are integral to the parish's future.

3. A Parish Serving a Dual Population (Residents & Visitors)

What the data says - St. Brendan serves year-round parishioners and a significant seasonal/tourist population. - Masses fill during peak seasons, creating strain on seating and parking.

What the vision should say - Hospitality, accessibility, and welcome are mission priorities. - Worship and campus planning must account for seasonal peak demand, not just average attendance. - Visitors are viewed as opportunities for evangelization, not inconveniences.

4. A Parish Sustained by a Committed Core of Volunteers

What the data says - A relatively small percentage of parishioners carry a large share of leadership and service. - Many volunteers serve in multiple roles. - The current leadership core is aging.

What the vision should say - Leadership development and succession planning are essential to long-term health. - New parishioners, younger members, and underrepresented communities must have clear pathways into leadership. - Service should be sustainable, not dependent on over-extension.

5. A Parish Where Space Is Ministry

What the data says - Campus facilities are used extensively throughout the week. - Ministries increasingly compete for space. - Significant investments and land acquisition indicate readiness for growth.

What the vision should say - Physical space is an expression of mission, not just infrastructure. - Worship space, ministry space, and gathering space must work together. - Growth will be phased, flexible, and mission-driven.

6. A Parish Committed to Discernment, Not Reaction

What the data says - When viewed together, the data reflects health, vitality, and transition—not crisis.

What the vision should say - Decisions will be grounded in prayer, data, and lived parish experience. - The parish commits to listening, learning, and planning together. - The goal is not simply to build bigger, but to build wisely for the parish we are becoming.

This snapshot is intended to support conversation, not conclude it—helping the Parish Council and pastoral leadership discern faithful next steps for the next decade of parish life.

St. Brendan the Navigator Catholic Church

Parish Community Annual Summaries: Trends & 10-Year Planning Implications

Prepared as a synthesis of the 2023–2025 Parish Community Annual Summaries

Purpose of This Document

The Parish Community Annual Summary reports have done an excellent job of capturing what the parish did each year. This document builds on that strong foundation by answering a different—but equally important—question:

What do these numbers tell us about who we are becoming, and how they should inform decisions about the next 10 years of parish life?

This synthesis is intended to support pastoral leadership, parish council, and committee discernment as St. Brendan looks ahead—particularly as conversations emerge around campus expansion, worship space, and ministry facilities.

Executive Summary (Key Takeaways)

- St. Brendan is experiencing steady, healthy growth, not volatility.
- The parish serves a dual population: year-round parishioners and a significant seasonal/tourist community.
- Engagement is deepening, with a strong core of highly committed volunteers.
- Pastoral care needs are increasing, reflecting an aging demographic alongside young families.
- Campus usage, infrastructure investments, and land acquisition all signal a parish preparing for future capacity, not reacting to crisis.

Conclusion: The data supports intentional, phased expansion—particularly increased worship seating, parking capacity, and flexible ministry space.

1. Parish Size & Growth Patterns

Observed Trends - Total parish registrants increased from approximately 5,700 (2023) to over 6,100 (2025). - Estimated active parishioners rose from ~5,000 to ~6,000. - Estimated people served annually remains consistently around 7,000.

Interpretation - Growth is gradual and sustainable. - Retention appears strong. - The parish is absorbing growth without loss of cohesion.

Planning Implication - St. Brendan is transitioning into a mid-to-large parish reality, which benefits from intentional systems, scalable facilities, and forward-looking capital planning.

2. Seasonal & Tourist Community Impact

Observed Trends - During peak tourist seasons, Mass attendance fills the church. - Parking constraints and seating limitations are most visible during these periods.

Interpretation - Annual averages understate true capacity needs. - First impressions for visitors and seasonal worshippers matter greatly for evangelization and hospitality.

Planning Implication - Worship space and parking must be sized to seasonal peak demand, not average Sundays. - Expansion supports mission, welcome, and accessibility.

3. Sacramental Life & Pastoral Care

Observed Trends – At first glance there appear to be declines in baptisms, First Communion, and Confirmation and Significant increases in Anointing of the Sick and funerals. Upon a closer look, it appears that 2024 was an outlier year- perhaps catching up on sacraments from COVID or another reason for such high demand in 2024.

Interpretation - The parish population is aging. - Demand for pastoral presence, medical response, and end-of-life ministry is growing.

Planning Implication - Facilities should support pastoral care, accessibility, safety, and dignity. - Ministries such as St. Michael, medical, and grief support will continue to be essential.

4. Volunteerism & Engagement Depth

Observed Trends - Estimated number of people serving increased significantly, with many serving in multiple roles. - Overall engagement rate remains steady (~8–12%).

Interpretation - A committed leadership core carries much of the parish life. - Risk of volunteer fatigue exists without leadership development and succession planning.

Planning Implication - Space that supports training, formation, and short-term service opportunities will help broaden participation. - Flexible meeting rooms and ministry hubs are increasingly important.

5. Faith Formation Stability

Observed Trends - Family Faith Formation enrollment remains remarkably consistent year over year.

Interpretation - Trust in programming is strong. - Families who engage tend to stay engaged.

Planning Implication - Faith Formation is a gateway to broader parish involvement. - Dedicated, adaptable formation spaces support long-term parish vitality.

6. Outreach & Stewardship Strength

Observed Trends - Charitable giving through Knights of Columbus and parish outreach has increased. -

Volunteer hours are substantial and sustained.

Interpretation - Outreach is operational and mission-driven, not symbolic. - Financial generosity is keeping pace with parish growth.

Planning Implication - Facilities that support outreach logistics, storage, and coordination enhance impact. -

Data-driven storytelling can strengthen stewardship and capital planning efforts.

6A. Hispanic Parish Life & Future Growth Indicators

Observed Indicators - Parish-level data indicates approximately 40 baptisms in the most recent reporting year. -

Prior-year data shows a higher-than-normal number of baptisms, suggesting a temporary spike rather than a sustained baseline. - Council-level discussion has indicated that an estimated 90% of baptisms occur within the Hispanic community, highlighting the presence of young Hispanic families. - The Parish Community Annual Summaries reflect meaningful Hispanic participation through liturgical celebrations, retreats, service projects, and volunteer efforts.

Interpretation - Year-over-year baptism counts should be interpreted in context; a decrease from an unusually high year does not necessarily indicate decline. - Baptisms function as a leading indicator of future parish life rather than a measure of overall parish size. - The concentration of baptisms within the Hispanic community suggests that a significant portion of the parish's next generation is emerging from this community.

Planning Implications - Long-range planning should intentionally account for the needs and gifts of Hispanic families, particularly in youth ministry, faith formation, and family-centered programming. - Facility design should consider flexible, welcoming spaces that support multigenerational and bilingual parish life. - Future Parish Community Annual Summaries may benefit from modestly expanded tracking of sacramental data by year to better distinguish trends from temporary fluctuations.

7. Facilities & Infrastructure Readiness

Observed Trends - Campus usage averages approximately 120 hours per week. - Significant investments have already been made in safety, systems, land, and infrastructure.

Interpretation - Leadership has been preparing for growth intentionally. - The parish has reduced future risk by addressing major systems proactively.

Planning Implication - Building expanded worship space while repurposing existing buildings for ministry aligns with best practices. - Phased development allows flexibility and financial prudence.

Interpreting Sacramental Variability (Context for Trend Analysis)

Observed Pattern - Sacramental participation, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, shows variation year over year. - 2024 reflects a notably higher level of participation compared to both 2023 and 2025.

Interpretation - Sacramental numbers are influenced by cohort timing, catechetical scheduling, staffing transitions, and delayed participation from prior years. - In this case, 2024 appears to be an outlier year rather than a new baseline. - While 2025 numbers are lower than 2024, they remain significantly higher than 2023 levels, suggesting normalization rather than decline.

Planning Implication - Multi-year views provide a more accurate picture of sacramental life than single-year comparisons. - Planning decisions should be grounded in sustained patterns rather than isolated fluctuations, helping avoid overcorrection or unnecessary concern.

Overall Discernment Statement

The Parish Community Annual Summaries reveal a parish that is: - Healthy and growing - Deeply engaged in worship, service, and outreach - Experiencing demographic shifts - Increasingly constrained by space and parking - Already laying groundwork for future expansion

This data supports thoughtful, phased expansion of worship seating, parking, and flexible ministry space—not as a reaction, but as a faithful response to who St. Brendan is becoming.

Suggested Next Step

Consider reframing future Parish Community Annual Summaries to include: - Year-over-year trend highlights - 3–5 interpretive insights - Planning implications tied to parish priorities

This transforms the report from a historical record into a strategic leadership tool.

Prepared to support pastoral discernment and collaborative parish planning.
