

Saint Raphael Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – St. Gabriel Hall
November 24, 2025 7:00PM

Meeting called to order:

Opening Prayer- Elaine
(*See Addendum A for Opening Prayer Schedule)

Frank facilitated the meeting.

Attendance: Absent - Josh, Rose Marie, Frances, Melvin and Maria

Acceptance of October Minutes.

Next meeting is 1/19/2026

Reminder - Get those committees selected!

Father John's Comments:

- Railings: Contacts are signed, waiting on install dates
- Streaming from St. Gabe: Cameras installed and need to upload schedule. Streaming will be available for private events (weddings/funerals) if requested.
- Attendance: Peter keeps good records and recorded an increase in attendance. Average 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024 629 participants and 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025 increase to 659
- Archbishop Visit - Archbishop Coyne visited on Sunday 11/02 Fr Maroney, Fr John, Fr Hau celebrated mass. Reception followed Mass. FB home page for the diocese now has a photo from the mass.
Thanks to Cathy, Joyce and Elaine who arranged the reception.

Standing Committee Reports

Prayer and Worship Committee Report

*See Addendum B

Social Justice/Human Concerns Committee

*See Addendum C.

Parish Life – Cathy Coda

- Coffee And...
 - November donations for the Wounded Warrior Project during “Coffee And.” Collected \$295
- New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance – posters are out, cost is \$50/person with caterer, DJ and decorations all set. Ticket sales will start on weekend of December 6th.
- Christmas Fair December 6th – still looking for donations of gift cards and nativity scenes.
- Lenten supper – tentative date is Friday, March 13th

Faith Formation: Maria Tomasetti

*Addendum D

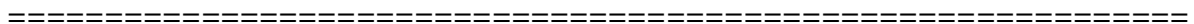
Other Business

- Discussion regarding signage for hours for the masses. John has proof that he will review and begin the process
- Homefront – committed to May 2026 but will revisit regarding the vetting process and going forward.
- Discussion regarding candles at Christmas mass at St. Gabriel – This was decided against due to safety concerns - attendance is high at this mass.
- Discussed Blessing of the Throats on February 3rd.
- Frank made a report for all that the Knights of Columbus, Tinto Council, does for the Parish and for others. **(Please see addendum E).**

Closing Prayer: Father John!

Next Pastoral Council Meeting is January 19th at Saint Ann.

- Meeting Schedule **(please see Addendum F).**
- Minutes submitted by Susan Reed



Addendum A: Opening Prayer Schedule

January: Joshua
February: Leo
March: Susan
April: Melvin
May: Joyce

Addendum B: Prayer & Worship Report

Mass of Remembrance

Sunday, November 2, 2:00 p.m., Saint Ann Church

87 members, relatives and friends of our parish family were remembered with love at this year's Mass of Remembrance. The Mass, which is live-streamed every year, remains a most moving and deeply appreciated liturgy.

Advent/Christmas

Copies of *Waiting in Joyful Hope*, a Liturgical Press booklet of Reflections for the Advent & Christmas seasons, were available at both churches this past weekend, and they were a very popular item. Parishioners seemed very pleased that we have some booklets in Spanish this year. The schedules for Christmas Masses and confessions can be found in the weekly bulletin and in the December issue of *The Parish Press*.

Holy Day Monday, December 8th – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day in honor of Mary Immaculate, patroness of the United States of America
Masses: 8:00 a.m. at Saint Ann, 7:00 p.m. at Saint Gabriel

An Uplifting Story/Note of Special Interest

Sometime after Gertrude Poquette's funeral on May 23 of this year Gertrude's daughters asked if it would be possible to have a plate placed on one of the pews at Saint Gabriel Church in honor of Gertrude and her husband (one like the many other such memorial plates at Saint Gabriel's). Gertrude was a dedicated Saint Gabriel parishioner who served as an usher and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She sat regularly in the 3rd pew from the vestibule, on the right-hand side facing the altar, her daughters said. Would it be possible to have her plate there? With Father John's approval we made the arrangements. The plate was engraved and put in place – in just the spot the family had requested, which was available, and Gertrude's family was delighted to see it when they came to Mass on Sunday, October 26th.

Addendum C: Human Concerns and Social Justice:

Our Saint Raphael Parish Christmas Giving Program begins this weekend, November 29/30. There will be trees at both of our beautiful churches, filled with paper ornaments with needs of our St. Gabriel food pantry clients, health care facility residents, parish families in need, and many people in need served by local social service organizations. Since this is a parish-wide program, any gifts or gift cards can be returned to either St. Ann Church or St. Gabriel Church. Our gift check-in and sorting takes place in a locked classroom on the St. Ann campus. We are requesting that gifts and gift cards please be returned by Sunday, December 14, if possible, to ensure that gifts are delivered before Christmas. However, we gratefully accept late gifts and will be scheduling make-up delivery dates. Thank you for your support!

Addendum D: Faith Formation

First Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at St. Gabriel Church. We have 20 children preparing to receive First Reconciliation on December 13.

Our GIFT Advent/Christmas Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is an informal event with crafts and other activities to help our families reinforce the true meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Teen Confirmation. 23 teens received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Sunday, November 16. An additional candidate will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, December 6.

Adult Confirmation. Seven adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Tuesday, November 18.

OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. We are working with three candidates (two baptized Catholic and one baptized Episcopalian), preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. There is also a fourth candidate who is continuing to explore the Catholic faith at this time.

Nurturing Seedlings: Community for Young Parents. You'll notice announcements in the Nov 29 bulletin and December Parish Press. Nurturing Seedlings, created by the Archdiocese of Hartford, is a ministry designed for parents/guardians of children ages birth to five to:

- Give young parents the opportunity to share in community with other young families and enjoy a sense of belonging with the entire parish
- Help parents to grow in their own faith and prayer life
- Equip young parents with simple skills to lead their young child/children

into a relationship with Jesus from the very beginning.
Communications will continue in 1Q 2026 and Nurturing Seedlings launch is planned for Spring 2026.

Addendum E:

Knights of Columbus, Tinto Council

Report to St. Raphael Parish Pastoral Council: November, 2025

The following is an overview of what the Knights have done with or for the parish, as well as some of the other charitable things done by the council.

- Support *Homefront* both financially and with manpower.
- Organize and collect food for Parish Food Bank several times a year.
- Help in setup and takedown for parish events such as Christmas Fair, New Years Eve Party, Parish Picnic, Bible Summer Camp, Lenten supper, various parish receptions, etc.
- Set up kiosks in both churches and provide spiritual literature material to be included in them.
- Support of parish Garden Program.
- Assisting with man power and logistical support the *Baby Bottle* program (under Human Concerns committee) coming in January aimed at helped unwed or poor mothers with their children.
- Provided a presence and feeling of security in both churches for nighttime Confessions the parish conducts during lent.
- Donated funds needed to air condition the gym in the Parish center on St. Ann's grounds.
- Conducted programs centered around biblical and spiritual themes for men.
- Brought K of C Icon program to parish.
- Conducts monthly Rosary for all men and women centering on protection of children and the personal intentions of those who attend.
- Give prayer and financial support to a diocesan seminarian each year.

Besides these things, the Tinto Council of the K of C as also:

- Provided scholarships the St. Raphael Parish high school students as well as one to a Jonathan Law student who, even if not a parishioner, exemplifies the ideals of the K of C.
- Supported the *Beth El Center* by providing a dinner for the homeless.
- Supported *Boys & Girls Village* by providing gifts during the Christmas season.
- Sponsored Milford's *Camp Happiness* by sponsoring an attendee.
- Sponsored the *Toys for Tots* program by providing gifts.

Overall, the Tinto Council of the Knights of Columbus follow the ideals of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, by providing a Catholic Men's organization for men of the parish, as well as others, which help all to support each other spiritually and at times financially, while ensuring that everyone remain aligned with Christian endeavors, as well as Catholic goals and teaching.

Addendum F: Saint Raphael Pastoral Council
2025 – 2026 Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM

~~September 22 – Saint Gabriel~~

~~October 27 – Saint Ann~~

~~November 24 – Saint Gabriel~~

No December meeting as everyone is busy around Christmas.

January 19 * Saint Ann (*Father on vacation the 4th Monday*)

February 23 Saint Gabriel

March 23 Saint Ann

April 27 Saint Gabriel

May 18 * Saint Ann (*Week earlier due to Memorial Day*)

Merry Christmas!