

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 7:00 PM Conference Room

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Fr. Hilbert, Barbara Bennett, Laura De Boisblanc, Antonio Del Rosario, Ken Kern, Marguerite Lucarelli, John Mancuso, Letty Moss-Salentijn, Sabrina Ng, Dolores Quinn, Christian Sanders.

Absent: Christopher Passmore

1. **Prayer.** Fr. Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes, October 8, 2025.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted. Certain updates on events are included in these minutes.
3. **Report: Pastor.** Fr. Yesalonia gave an update of various events and works of the parish, including, in no particular order:
 - a. Fr. Yesalonia and Mr. Fernando Castro met with the Treasurer of the Archdiocese to discuss a potential monetary contribution of the parish to ease the Archdiocese's financial burden. The discussions are ongoing.
 - b. The project to have the stained-glass window in the upper central portion of the façade of the church illuminated at night is progressing well.
 - c. A comprehensive study of the physical plant by engineers is in course, with the prospect of evaluating the need for a capital campaign to address significant upgrades, in particular the HVAC infrastructure.
 - d. Two events that were announced at last month's Parish Council meeting have been cancelled: the Advent Wreath decorating on November 16, and the "Cookie Walk" on December 13.
 - e. Upcoming events were announced:
 - i. The Caritas Concert on November 10.
 - ii. The interfaith talk on dietary laws in Judaism and Islam, on November 17.

- iii. The interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service on November 20.
 - iv. The dedication of the Fr. William J. Bergen, S.J. Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation, on December 10, followed by the book launch of Fr. Bergen's 3-volume collection of homilies.
 - v. On February 2, 2026, we will host Fr. James Martin, S.J., for the launch of his latest book.
 - f. The Council members were invited to share an Iftar dinner with Muslim friends from the Peace Island Institute during Ramadan next February and March.
 - g. The food and clothing drives sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul have seen extraordinarily many donations, a sign of the generosity of the parishioners and the precarious financial situation of the city.
4. **Communications Strategy.** Due to the absence of Chris Passmore, this agenda item was tabled until the December meeting.
5. **Parish Council Bylaws.** The question of the length of the terms of council members was clarified. The term is three years, with the possibility of renewal for one 3-year term.
6. **Implementation Plan—Update.**
- a. Ken Kern communicated that the semiannual report on the progress of the Implementation Plan will be ready for January. A draft of the report will be submitted at the December meeting for discussion.
 - b. Sabrina Ng and John Mancuso reported that 11 short videos have been made and are available on Facebook and Instagram. The matter of release forms has been resolved. Council members were encouraged to submit their own videos.
 - c. Laura De Boisblanc is working on the Week of Service during the first week of Lent and solicited suggestions for service activities from the members.
 - d. A question was asked about the utility of a parish-wide survey on the implementation plan itself. It was decided that the plan was still in its infancy and need more time before the parish was surveyed.

7. **Aging and Isolation Forum.** Lette Moss-Salentijn informed the council members of the progress made in organizing this Forum. There are 25 persons registered for the event. The Roundtable Forum will take place at 5 PM on November 17th in the Carlos Cuartas Parish Lounge.
8. **Living Out Our Faith Roundtable.** Sabrina Ng and Fr. Hilbert spoke of the plans for this roundtable, formerly called “Evangelization in Today’s World.” A revised draft proposal was presented to the members and a discussion followed about the best format for such a gathering.
9. **Spirituality and Internet Roundtable.** Ken Kern and Antonio Del Rosario presented their “work in progress,” and will have further details at the December meeting.
10. **Holiday Themed Celebrations.**
 - a. The Snowball Dance on December 6th (Marguerite Lucarelli).
 - b. A Celtic celebration on March 13 (Marguerite Lucarelli).
 - c. Easter egg coloring at Easter.
11. **Other Business.** There was no other business raised.

Fr. Yesalonia led us in a Hail Mary and asked St. Ignatius to pray for us.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 3, 2025, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.
Michael Hilbert, S.J.