

## **Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

Monday, March 9, 2026 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Pat Hammarth, Maureen Fullam, Laura De Boisblanc, Anne Melanson, Jacques Turchon, Joan Schultz, Adele Gallo, Janet Lam, Hector Montoya

### **Opening Prayer**

Father Yesalonia led the opening prayer.

### **Review of the December 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Fr. Yesalonia asked the council members to present any necessary changes to the draft minutes from the December 15, 2025 Parish Ministry Council meeting. After review, the minutes were approved and will be posted on the parish website.

### **Ministry Report**

#### **Hospitality and Lay Ministers Enrichment – Jacques Turchon**

- The LME Day of Reflection on February 14, led by Fr. Kevin O’Brien, was a great success with over 60 attendees.
- Bernie Reilly has recovered and has resumed his role as a Hospitality Minister.
- Four individuals responded to Fr. Pennacchia’s request for volunteers to serve at the 7:30 PM Mass.
- Jacques is currently concentrating on staffing the Holy Week and Easter Sunday Masses.
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – LME Day of Reflection led by Brian Pinter.

#### **Compassionate Care and Emmaus Bereavement – Anne Melanson**

- The Compassionate Care Ministry is comprised of 27 ministers. The team brings communion to thirteen people at home and serves approximately 30 patients at Lenox Hill Hospital.
- 112 residents were served on Ash Wednesday.
- Bill O’Brien was a mainstay in this ministry and will be missed by all the members.
- Vista Assisted Living residents are unhappy with management, poor food quality, and lack of heat. Their complaints have been referred to the Ombudsman of NYC and NYS.
- Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> – Anointing of the Sick
- Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> – First church tour of 2026. The January and February tours were cancelled due to the hazardous winter weather.

#### **Ignatian Social Justice – Laura de Boisblanc**

- A New Jersey mother has been detained by ICE. Despite the migrant accompaniment team being unfamiliar with habeas corpus motions in New Jersey, they are doing whatever they can to support her.
- The Family Christmas party on December 20 had its highest attendance. All families received Christmas collected through SVDP’s Christmas Angel Project. Fr. Hilbert also

participated in the event as a Spanish speaking Santa Claus, much to the delight of all the children.

- 50 individuals participated in the whistle kit-making event in Wallace Hall on January 11. The group assembled 1,000 kits, which were given to Fr. Eric Cruz to distribute in Port Chester.
- Lenten Week of Service:
  - 215 parishioners attached ribbons to the cross in the narthex to symbolize their commitment to doing acts of service. Service commitments were as follows: 40% to food insufficiency, 33% to unhoused/poverty, and 27% to immigrant services.
  - There were 22 events for the Lenten Week of Service. Events were hosted by the Interfaith Ministry, the LGBT Ministry, SVdP, and ISJ. Due to inclement weather, the Dorothy Day Pilgrimage and God's Love We Delivery service day were postponed.
  - LGBT will sponsor SAGE events quarterly.
  - New Sanctuary Coalition:
    - Jericho Walk - Participants came from St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis Xavier parishes. Fr. Casciotti, Fr. Hallinan, and Fr. Tunney also participated in the initial Jericho Walk.
    - There were two training courses on how to accompany someone to immigration court. At least one new volunteer is now doing court accompaniment with NSC regularly. Several others plan to take the training.
- Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sign-making for No Kings Day March on March 28.
- Jun. 7<sup>th</sup> – Season of Faithful Witness procession.

#### **OCIA – Maureen Fullam**

- 31 individuals are enrolled in OCIA this year. The group is currently preparing for admission to the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass.
- The Rite of Election was celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral with Archbishop Hicks.
- Mar. 1st – Rite of Sending

#### **Music Ministry – Pat Hammarth**

- Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> – US Naval Academy Glee Club.
- Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> – Skylark: SEVEN Words from the Cross.
- Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday Concert: St. Matthew Passion.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sing and Celebrate concert.

#### **LGBT Catholics & Friends Ministry – Janet Lam and Hector Montoya**

- The LGBT Ministry has launched a newsletter to share updates and information on upcoming events.

- In January, the ministry hosted a welcome back event on January 15 and a tri-parish social with St. Francis Xavier and St. Paul the Apostle on January 30. The social was a massive success, attracting 200 attendees.
- Roxanne De La Torre led the LGBT Ministry in an Ignatian Spiritual Exercise during its February 19 meeting. The group plans to expand the spiritual dimension of their ministry by offering a spiritual component once each quarter.
- February events included a SAGE Lenten Service on February 20 and a Jazz Mass at Ascension Church on February 22.
- Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Evening of Reflection with the Father William J. Bergen SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality & Faith Formation.
- Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> – Film screening of *Communion*.
- Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> – Pilgrimage to Mother Cabrini Shrine.
- May 15-17<sup>th</sup> – Retreat in Litchfield, CT.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – LGBTQ Catholics and Friends Barbecue.
- Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – Parish Art Show.

#### **Circle of Friends – Joan Schultz**

- Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Elizabeth Stack’s presentation “Irish American Stories to Celebrate America 250<sup>th</sup>”.
- Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> – George Rudenauer’s presentation “Discover the Glories of Central Park”.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Dr. John Paoletti’s presentation on Michelangelo.
- Several presenters for the 2026-2027 series have been confirmed, and four programs have already been outlined.

#### **Women’s Faith Group and Children’s Sunday Gospel Ministry – Adele Gallo**

- The Women’s Faith Group has lost some members due to professional commitments and death. After much consideration and thought, a decision has been made to take a respite with the intention of reconfiguring the ministry to attract a broader spectrum of participants.
- The Children’s Liturgy of the Word continues at 9:30AM Mass. Attendance varies from week to week. While 23 children participated last Sunday, there was only one child yesterday morning.
- There was a behavior issue during the 9:30AM Mass on March 14. A young child ran across the front of the sanctuary several times and lay on the Communion rail, interrupting the Mass and distracting congregants. No adult intervened.

#### **Pastors Report**

The Pastor shared the following comments:

- The SVdP Blood Drive on March 1 was a great success.
- The Interfaith Ministry hosted its annual Iftar dinner on March 26, welcoming close to 300 individuals.
- Lou Csabay is developing a plan to reenergize the New Parishioners Welcome Committee. He is also planning a reception for new members in the fall.

- The city has previously permitted the closure of 84<sup>th</sup> St between Madison and Park Avenues at certain times during the day for the Grammar School's recreational use. A neighbor recently complained and the practice is now under City scrutiny. In response to the complaint, a petition to continue the arrangement has been filed.
- The Spring Appeal will commence the week after Easter.
- Mar. 13th – Celtic Night Celebration. Proceeds will go towards the Grammar School.

Fr. Yesalonia offered the closing prayer at 8:00 pm.