

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 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, Christopher Passmore, Dolores Troy Quinn, Christian Sanders.

Note: The numbering of the items on the agenda lacked #6. The present minutes corrects this.

1. **Prayer.** Fr. Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes, December 3, 2025.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved with some amendments.
3. **Report: Pastor.** Fr. Yesalonia gave an update of various events and works of the parish, including, in no particular order:
 - a. The parish experienced an unusually large number of funerals this past week (8).
 - b. The post-holiday season has been otherwise fairly quiet.
 - c. The exploration of purchasing property in the neighborhood for office, classroom, and meeting spaces continues. One proposal is to build an upper floor on the SILS building.
 - d. Approval has been granted for the lighting of the stained-glass window on the church façade.
 - e. Many people have remarked on the lack of heat in the church. A new HVAC system is needed. A group of engineers and architects has been retained to study the physical plant of the church, parish house, and school.
 - f. In this regard, a capital campaign to raise extra needed funds will be necessary, probably in 2027.
 - g. The Christmas Masses were very well attended: 1,300 people were at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass, for example. However, while the numbers of mass-goers increased significantly this year, the donations decreased.

- h. Bishop Ronald Hicks will be installed as the next Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York on February 6, 2026. Two tickets have been allocated to every parish in the archdiocese for both the installation Mass and the Vespers service on the evening of February 5th. Council members expressed a desire to attend one or the other event.
 - i. The inauguration of the Father William J. Bergen, S.J. Office of Ignatian Spirituality & Faith Formation, and the book launch for Fr. Bergen's 3-volume set of homilies, was beautiful and well-attended (over 200 persons at the book launch). Gratitude was extended to all who made the events so successful.
 - j. The former pastor of St. Catherine's Parish in Bethlehem, Father Rami, OFM, has accepted our invitation to come to New York for a visit and to get to know our parish. The visit will be coordinated by Roxanne De La Torre. A parish wide event will take place on April 17, and volunteers will be recruited.
 - k. Mr. Bernie Reilly, who faithfully oversees the Sunday 7:30 PM Mass, after a serious medical event, will have to interrupt his ministry for a few months of convalescence. The parish house receptionists will accept get-well cards and notes to deliver to Bernie.
4. **Implementation Plan—Update.**
- a. Ken Kern communicated that the semiannual report on the progress of the Implementation Plan is almost ready to be published. Ken is still waiting for any news regarding the 12 initiatives outlined in the Implementation Plan.
5. **Living Out Our Faith Roundtable.** Sabrina Ng and Father Hilbert presented the latest draft of the proposal, and at the same time proposed to table this discussion until after the summer. This was accepted by the Council
6. **Spirituality and Internet Roundtable.** Ken Kern and Antonio Del Rosario presented the details of this roundtable. It will take place on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:00 PM, in the Carlos Cuartas Parish Lounge. All ages are welcome. Registration will be required, and some reading material will be sent to the participants beforehand.

7. **Home Iftar Invitation.** Father Yesalonia presented the invitation, extended by the members of the Peace Island Institute to four St. Ignatius Loyola parishioners, to an Iftar dinner during Ramadan, at the private home of a Muslim family. Fr. Yesalonia received enthusiastic response from a number of the council members.

8. **Other Business.**

A. Upcoming Events, in chronological order.

1. **Tri-Parish LGBT meeting, Friday, January 30**, 6-9 PM, in Wallace Hall. The first ever joint meeting and social of the ministries of St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Paul the Apostle.
2. **Mardi Gras Pizza and Bingo Night.** Sponsored by the Family Ministry, it will take place on **Saturday, February 7**, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, in Wallace Hall.
2. **The Celtic Night.** Marguerite Lucarelli brought us up to date on the preparations for this event to be held on **Friday, March 13**. This will be a family event, with the help of SILS students. The festivities will include Irish food and music, games, activities for the young people, cash bar for the adults. The council discussed whether this should be a fundraising event for charity. Further planning is anticipated.
3. **Easter egg coloring.** This will take place on **Friday, March 20**. Sabrina Ng and John Mancuso are the organizers. Their idea is that this event will be mainly for adults.
4. **The 2026 Parish Art Show.** This will take place in **May**, organizers are Rita Ricobelli and Hector Montoya.

B. **Other Matters:**

1. **Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Picture Album.** There are over 100 photos and videos collected, more are still welcome.
2. **Communications Project.** Chris Passmore provided an update, with Sabrina Ng and Marguerite Lucarelli. They are organizing a meeting with professionals in the field.
3. **Donations.** The parish accepts donations via Venmo and Zelle. The kiosks at the rear of the church have not functioned.

4. **Parish Council Meeting Schedule.** There will be changes to the dates of the March and May meetings of the council.

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, February 11, 2026, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.
Michael Hilbert, S.J.