

**St. Paul's Pastoral Council Meeting
1 September 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. with a prayer by Fr. Osman.

Our Mission and Vision Statements were read together by all present

I. Attendance:

Fr. Osman – Pastor	Jim Schiffler — Liturgy Coord
Kent McCormack – President	Mike Burks — Maintenance
Margaret Carlson – Secretary	Barbara Balbo — Women's Gp
Chad Hook — Booster Chair	Ava-Marie Papillon — Music

Absent:

Brett Kerspilo — CRE.	Jessica Jones—Pastoral Assistant
Kit Tyler – Liturgical Decorator	

II. Pastor's Comments:

A. One-hundred Anniversary Events and How-Goes-it—A professional video is being produced to present, Nov 7, on the history of the Church, the Parish, and its role in the Angola Community during the Agave Dinner. A new Parish Directory is planned for 2027. The Directory Committee is searching for the best company to print the booklets and may seek recommendations from the Diocese. A discussion was held about creating a single, combined parish directory for both St. Paul's and St. Anthony's churches. The idea was well-received as a way to promote unity and save money. The format would be similar to the combined bulletin, with separate sections for each church in a single book.

B. The Synod — There are no official updates. The council is awaiting the official consultations with the Bishops. The parish delegates are Holly Leucuta (St. Paul's) and Jessica Jones (St. Anthony). Two delegate sessions are scheduled for October and November 2026. Fr. Osman emphasized that the synod is a process of discernment and patience is required. The Bishop will take time to reflect and pray before implementing any changes based on the consultations.

C. Renovation of the new reception area at St. Anthony — Project completed! The Route of foot traffic goes straight into the office. Nice furniture, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Papal Flag and American Flag are in the reception area—looks beautiful.

D. New Pastoral Assistant for St. Anthony and St. Paul — Jessica Jones. We welcome her to her new position. Two main duties she will be responsible for are: 1). Administrator for Ministry Scheduler Pro, 2). Point of contact for all Mass announcements.

III. Old Business:

A. Outreach program: Our Outreach letters were mailed out in August. Twenty-five letters and no response as of our meeting from any of the recipients. Katie and Karina will know if there are any return to sender letters and/or members re-registering.

B. One-hundred (centennial) year anniversary at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (see Pastors Comment A for details).

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C. Increase Family Events—No new discussion.

D. Summer Mass Schedule—Will end this week after Labor Day Weekend. The Saturday evening Mass at 5:00 P.M. will stop; however, no change to the Sunday, 9:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday. Jim S. Identified a critical shortage of ministers for Saturday Masses as the most acute challenge of the summer. The same small group serves almost every week, and there were instances of no altar server or sacristans. Various recruitment ideas were proposed, including making announcements at Saturday Masses, targeting seasonal visitors (who would need to be commissioned within the diocese), and doing outreach during winter months. Emphasis was placed on the need for the year-round community to be more willing to serve on Saturdays. Last idea was noted that a possible logic gap in the scheduling software may exist—were people not assigned any Saturday's despite having the availability unblocked. An immediate plan is to begin outreach by sending a message to all ministry leaders explaining the Saturday staffing situation so they can communicate it within their groups.

Action items: Draft and send a message to ministry leaders explaining the Saturday staffing situation and requesting greater availability on Saturdays. Address Saturday staffing at upcoming minister training sessions. (Jim S.)

IV. Religious Education/Faith Formation: Need catechists for upcoming Religious Education year.

V. Committee Reports:

A. Boosters: Rib BBQ roast this Sunday, 6 September—we could use the help. Prep was done on August 27th, pickup is on September 2nd, and cooking starts around 5:00 A.M. - 6:00 A.M. on the September 6th. Nothing else planned for the upcoming near future. Election of new committee members will take place at the end of September or early October—during Coffee and donuts after Mass. Once we have the election—then we will set up a schedule for the rest of the year.

Financial issue: Discovered St. Paul's account with Midwest Essentials is "cash only" due to allegedly unpaid invoices from December, February, and March. Anyone who plans on getting items from them will have to pay cash for what they get. Recommend this financial issue be resolved through our established funds council to investigate the Midwest Essentials account status and resolve outstanding invoices. Review and clarify the deposit posting errors, confirm corrective action, and ensure the Boosters are properly notified of future discrepancies.

B. Maintenance: Possible office renovation for St. Paul area in the future—more info to follow. Sliding doors between chapel and community room acting up where the last section stops about a foot short of closing. A misaligned "down pressure: piece may be the cause. Issue already addressed to Business Manager—Recommend the door company be contacted to come out and look at the issues. (Katie)

C. Liturgical Decorator: No report.

D. Women's Group: The group will meet again on the third Thursday of the month. Presented the group's schedule for the year including presentations on Saints, a baby shower for

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Compassion Pregnancy Center, a card-making ministry, and a prayer angel reveal. The group is seeking ideas for a religious-themed outing in December.

E. Men's Group: New lessons on using the Bible Project—intro to each of the Old and New Testament books are being discussed. Men's group will be collecting for Thanksgiving baskets again led by Bill Koester. An announcement will be made on the 8th of November and the collection will be on November 15th.

F. Liturgical Coordinator: Planning training for lectors and extraordinary ministers. A date is being coordinated with Fr. Raul. Three ushers also require training to be compliant. Jim is also assisting with updating ministry guide booklets.

G. Music Ministry: We received new books. Everything is going great—our many visitors commented on the high participation of singing by the whole congregation.

VI. New Business:

A. Upcoming Advent Season: Church decorations will go up on the Sunday before Christmas and it's permitted to have the Nativity, without the Baby Jesus in it, placed outside first week of Advent.

B. Scheduling Liturgical Ministry Challenges and Opportunities—See Old Business “D” above.

VII. Other:

A. Farewell Concert - Sunday 27 September 2026 @ 10:00 A.M. Mass has been cancelled.

B. Eucharistic Concert. Fr. Osman will lead a Eucharistic Adoration Concert on, September 18th, organized by the diocesan Hispanic Board.

C. Feast Day of Saint Francis & Barb's Profession: The Feast day Is on Saturday, October 3—there will be no blessing of the pets this year. A solemn Eucharistic adoration will be held to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis's death. An official flyer will be distributed. Attendees are reminded that a plenary indulgence can be gained by attending. Barb B. Will make her profession as a secular Franciscan on Sunday, October 4th. Barb explained this is a commitment to live a gospel-centered life after her three-year formation. A reception (provided by the Boosters) with cake, coffee, and donuts will be held after mass to celebrate Barb's profession.

The meeting closed with prayer by Fr. Osman and concluded at 7:05 P.M.

Next meeting: 3 November 2026, 6:00 P.M.