Holy Cross Parish

A welcoming, vibrant community committed to growing in and sharing the love of Jesus

Pastoral Council

Time: 9:30 a.m.
Date: April 26, 2026

Present: Matthew Tabone, Rich Meyers, Kerry L. Mess, Dana Mockovciak, Jackie and Chet McAdams, Allan Dangca, Celine Francisco, Scott Kolberg

Prayer: Loving and gracious God, we gather in your presence as a faith community of believers. You call us to discipleship, removing all things that get in the way of us truly following you. We place our trust in you as we discern your will in our parish community. Help us to be open to your will. Be present to us throughout our meeting today so that we may continue to praise you in our words, decisions, and actions. We ask you to bless and keep our beloved Joe Tyson close to you that he may rest in peace. Amen.

I. Council
   - A. Approval of minutes: February 22, 2026 (**attached**) - approved
   - B. Council discussion
     1. Joe Tyson vacancy – fill or leave?
        Dana: motion to leave at 7; passed
     2. Officer elections*
        a. Review of Constitution (positions, duties)
        b. Discussion
        c. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary
           i. Secretary – Matthew Tabone
           ii. Chair –
           iii. Vice Chair -

II. New Business (Suggestions, Open Discussion)
   - A. Bishop Mark's agenda – Making rounds, gathering input, discussing his philosophy
     Moved quickly for settlement with survivors of abuse
     1. Bankruptcy / Settlement - $50M total
        $5,000 from Holy Cross
        6-9 months before we're asked for a check
        Do have money in the bank; don't have to sell rectory
     2. Parish Planning Expectations
        No programs with names (stopped Scharfenberger's synodality)
        Wants to save every parish he can
        e.g. (in Boston) A parish not viable on its own, turned into a healing center with a mission
        wants every parish to work on a 5-year plan – what we see for the future
        where we want to be, how we're going to get there
     3. Nominations for Diocesan Pastoral Council
        asking for trustees for Council – Rich and Marguerite

4. E-giving set up
   30 and under, don't carry cash, write checks – how do they give?
   Meet people where they're at
   Diocese doing a survey to see what's out there and will make recommendations; not sure he wants to use what Boston
5. Priest Availability
   Interviewing priests by zoom
   Diocese gets letters for people interested in coming; wants to bring good candidates with solid English skills
   Parishes that can afford a priest; Bishop Mark will get
   ~$50K (at least for salary, benefits, etc.)
   Holy Cross brings in ~$55-60K / year
   *Something to consider; need at least ~$20-25K extra per year (don't want to rely on savings)
   Current situation: Paying ~$6,000 / year (sharing with Oneonta)
   Visiting priests are paid $100 / visit
   Diocese doesn't have expectation for what the parish raises (except diocesan appeal)

   ACTION ITEM FOR COUNCIL: Take the pulse of the parish on this idea.

   ACTION ITEM FOR KLM: Construct an announcement for Sunday, May 3 letting people know Council members will be engaging in conversation about the 5-year plan and potential of having a full-time priest in residence.

B. Greetings from the Stewardship Office! https://form.typeform.com/to/QsRjYtal
   In an effort to evaluate the landscape of recurring and online giving tools currently used by parishes, we've developed this important survey. We will share the information once all submissions are in. If your parish does not offer these tools, we still need your response so we can account for the full scope of the recurring/online giving landscape among our parishes. It is okay if multiple people representing the parish respond to the survey as there may be different perspectives and insights which could be valuable.
   Please complete the survey by April 30, 2026 - thank you!

III. Status & Follow Up
What brings people in? Qualities: more quaint, more welcoming, more open
looking for a church that had more traditional ceremonies, will travel
Fr. Scott – youth came, were engaged; older people liked him too; connected Bible to people, welcoming, warm
Congregation needs to fill in those spaces that are missing (from a pastor)

a. Review of Parish Project Plan (**attached**)
   1. Recruitment for Eucharistic ministers, greeters, ushers
   2. Adult Formation Activities
      a. Bulletin – faith questions?
   3. Activities / Events
      a. Proposal: Miracle Sunday – annually in February to honor Joe Tyson

b. Lent Fish Dinner
    i. 45 people who signed in; at least 9 takeouts (per Marguerite)
    ii. Needed:
        - 3 rugs in kitchen: 1 in front of each stove and 1 in front of the sink to address water, grease, etc.
        - Steel wool / chore boy for scrubbing pans/pots
        - a few scrubbies for washing dishes that need more than a cloth and not quite steel wool
        - 10 dish cloths for drying dishes
    iii. Planning:
        - Discuss amount to purchase for supplies
        - Put two people on fish (we had that last year, and it definitely worked!)
        - Put two people on serving
        - Put one person on potatoes/fries
    iv. Other thoughts?
c. Parish Picnic
    i. **Saturday, July –** Council needs to make a decision (18, 25? Or Aug. 1?)
    ii. Planning committee? / Meeting(s)?
d. Lent/Holy Week 2027
    i. Proposal: Seder celebration on Passover (evening: Wednesday, April 21 or Thursday, April 22) with Zion Episcopal and Jewish rabbi
    ii. Proposal: Good Friday joint service with Zion Episcopal

4. Fountain Project Brick, Yearbook & Similar Fundraisers
    a. Scout project - $50 for a brick
    b. Should Matthew be jumping on such opportunities? generally a good thing (community support)
    c. Council approved Matthew engaging with such solicitations.

Next meeting: **Sunday, May 17, 2026 after mass** (Celine will correspond via email)

Closing Prayer
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray.
O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.