

Church of the Resurrection Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday January 20, 2026
6:15pm to 7:30pm
St. Paul's – Center for the New Evangelization

P = Present E = Excused

Pastoral Council (voting members)

Others in attendance

<u>Member</u>	<u>Status</u>
Kevin Bellamy	P
Michael Cain	P
Pat Cirasole	P
Kathy Kraft (CS)	P
Sharon Lanza	P
Tom Lauer (P)	P
Cathy Parrish	P
Paul Reif	P
Carolyn Sherman (RS)	P
Paul Venginickal	P
Brad Weiss (VP)	P
Sara Thomas: (non-voting) School Liaison	E
<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Status</u>
Fr. Andy Aaron (Pastor)	P
Fr. Paul Kongnyuy (Associate Pastor)	E
Fr. Kevin Farmer (Associate Pastor)	E

<u>Standing Committees & Ministries</u> <u>(reports reviewed prior to mtg.)</u>	
<u>Ministry / Lead</u>	<u>Reporting Months</u>
Liturgy (Roy Harris)	NOV / JAN / MAR / MAY
Fellowship (Mary Reif)	NOV / JAN / MAR / MAY
Social Justice (John Wilkin)	NOV / JAN / MAR / MAY
Adult Faith Formation (Kate Kleintank)	DEC / FEB / APR / JUN
K-5 Faith Formation (Susan Yost)	DEC / FEB / APR / JUN
Youth Ministry (Shannon Turlik)	DEC / FEB / APR / JUN
CAM Summary (Kathy Kraft)	MONTHLY
<u>Pastoral Council</u> <u>Priority Committees</u>	All Months
Welcome, Hospitality, New Families, Young People	Sharon Lanza (Lead) , Pat Cirasole, Carolyn Sherman
Engage & Connect Parishioners	Brad Weiss (Lead) , Paul Venginickel, Mike Cain, Cathy Parrish,
Small Church Community	Kevin Bellamy (Lead) , Pat Cirasole, Kathy Kraft Tom Lauer

1. **Call to Order:** (PC President / VP): 6:15 pm
2. **Roll Call / Establish Quorum** (Recording Secretary) – Quorum established
3. **Opening Prayer & Short Reflection** – Kathy Kraft
4. **December 9, 2025 - Minutes** were approved electronically and posted to CoR Website.
5. **President's Comments** –Feb. Meeting PC Council Overview / Councilor Terms Ending

Hard to believe that we are halfway through the Pastoral Council year! Believes we have in fact focused more on “missionary” over “maintenance” this year, which is the direction we wanted to take. March is the month to start thinking about elections; David Lucero (1-year appointee), Paul Reif, Carolyn Sherman, and Paul Venginickal’s terms will be up. Fr. Andy plans to talk about archdiocese best practices vis-à-vis elections at our next meeting.

Pastor Report / Update

- a. Update Adoration Chapel – After talking with a friend/architect who works for the diocese, is now thinking that a small addition to the Pastoral Center is the best way to go. This would not disrupt the interior spaces (the lobby) of the Pastoral Center, and while it will take longer and cost more, for long term, seems to be the best way forward; noted that Shannon Turklik and Alison Hegarty (Youth Ministry) agreed. There is large support from youth to create an Adoration Chapel.
- b. Update on Safety & Security – Fr. Andy has formed a committee to address safety and security concerns. Paul Venginickal is the Pastoral Council representative to this committee. A big part of the initiative moving forward will include a security presence on the church campus. The church will pay security folks to be here to include police cars, walking the campus and will include masses, larger youth events or other larger parish events. The presence of security personnel is known to be a strong deterrent to potential security and safety issues. Fr. Andy and the parish are giving both time and resource to provide a proactive plan for our parish, especially since the September shooting in Minnesota. Still need panic button at info desk in Gathering Space. Once security presence is in place, need to be sure to make announcements at masses, so that people are aware this is *not* in response to something that happened at our parish, rather that it is a practice being put into place for the safety of the congregation. Dave Lucero asked if we have received any threats/hints of protesters – we have not. The security plan – the scope of work—needs to be codified and presented to police. Goal is to have security presence in place by Ash Wednesday. Worked out with the Korean church on St. John’s Lane that we could use their spaces in the event of an emergency.

- c. Other General Updates from Pastor-- Pleased with efforts to improve parish life, based on the priorities determined at June 2025 Pastoral Council planning session. Would like to hold a similar session again in June, possibly as a joint meeting with the St. Paul Council.

6. **Councilor at Mass (CAM)** (Corresponding Secretary) While all issues are recorded, not every item requires action. Kathy Kraft still does retain apparent one-time issues, in the event that they accumulate over time, becoming actionable issues.

--- Received some questions as to why Christmas décor not up for choir Christmas concert, with the observation that Bon Secours has always been decorated for Advent. Roy Harris noted that, liturgically speaking, the church is supposed to be plain during Advent. That said, it was suggested that the artificial poinsettia (of which we have many) might be a way to decorate for next year's Christmas concert.

--- Still receiving complaints about ParishSoft, but is getting better.

--- Overall, many compliments about Christmas masses, as well as décor.

--- Reminder that when serving as CAM, get there early to review announcements and let Stephen know you are there. Even if he's rehearsing the choir, still go up and look at the announcements – he'll at least see you peripherally.

--- Still having trouble finding the clipboards for logging CAM issues. While those forms don't absolutely positively have to be used, the clipboard is a visual to parishioners that you are the Councilor at Mass. Tom will look into this.

7. Review of Pastoral Council Priority Committees

- a. Welcome, Hospitality, New Families, Young People (Sharon Lanza) --- Received go ahead to place mug order for gift bag to be given to new parishioners. Trying to get a ministry trifold together, like the one at St. Paul's, which includes a short description of the ministry and contact info for the lead of that ministry. Is working with Jamie Price to obtain contacts for new parishioners. There have been 250 new families since June 2025! Dave Lucero suggested that greeters could possibly hand out as well. Caroline Resetar (on staff) can help with assembling and getting to print (a Mrs. McGinty was referenced for printing).
- b. Engage & Connection Parishioners (Brad Weiss) We need to be invitational. Can't swing ministry fair until fall, due to busy parish calendar. Maybe some partial version ahead of fall? Cathy Parrish suggested that this soon-to-be trifold could be handed out after masses, along with a mention from the pulpit (either via Announcements and/or via priest). Cathy added that people need to feel needed! Brad Weiss added that a good way to engage people is to invite them to "light" volunteer duties – gets their feet wet, is not overwhelming, perhaps making them more receptive to further parish engagement. Mike Cain suggested he and Cathy and Brad get together offline.

- c. Small Church Community (Kevin Bellamy) Fr. Andy and Kate Kleintank definitely running with this! The committee is developing a questionnaire that will go to current small group leaders on how they started their groups, what has worked for them, etc. Essentially, the survey is intended to help the committee better understand, what is working or not working and how can we better support those current leaders and look for new ones. As well, Fr. Andy liked the idea of surveying our existing small group leaders but also asked that we create a survey that would go out to participants during the upcoming Lenten Small Groups. He is looking to gain feedback on participant interest levels and their usefulness to walking in the faith, along with looking for potential small group leaders. The Pastoral Council Small Group Committee will work out the details and logistics on how best to gather the participant feedback for fr. Andy. A lot of small groups are now full, need to actively look for new leaders. Sharon noted that when people finish a small group program, they ask: what do we do now? Need to have that ready. Pat Cirasole noted that she was once given a list of activities, but it was outdated. Fr. Andy will work with Kate for a listing of resources for small groups.

8. Review of Standing Committee and Ministry Reports

a. Liturgy (Roy Harris)

- Attendance charts were presented. Things seem to be leveling out. Attendance a little down on Christmas Eve, a few more on Christmas day.
- Fr. Paul attends monthly Liturgy meetings; priests like use of incense.
- For the 4:30 mass, still working on core group of sacristans, EMHCs, and priests. Attendance: 170 to 190, 40 to 50 of which are youth.
- Christmas—many compliments. Hall mass was pretty full. 6 pm mass in the church had over 730! It was very crowded, will probably increase EMHCs for that mass next year. Considered offering a second hall mass, but that needs a whole other set of priests/sacristans/EMHC. Brad added that parking was challenging at the early Christmas Eve masses, due to limited parking at Chatham (more businesses open at the time) and traffic issues on Chatham Rd.
- Temporary halt of Precious Blood (due to flu); will reassess in a month.
- CAM—this was Fr. John’s idea! (for those interested in knowing its origins)
- Some people have asked for the Blessing of the Chalk (chalk used for inscription placed over doorway usually at Epiphany, to invite Christ into your home (e.g., for 2026: 20 + C

+ M + B + 26, where 20 and 26 are the year; C M and B represent the three Magi (Wise Men): **C**aspar, **M**elchior, and **B**althasar.) Has been done at St. Paul.

b. Fellowship (Mary Reif) Mary noted her strategy for getting soup makers last year (remember, this was a new thing) —she stopped people after mass and simply asked them! Now, some of these folks are stopping her and asking when they get to make soup again!

- Lenten Simple Suppers: working with St. Paul to alternate meals between the parishes. Schedule will be published in the bulletin. On March 27th, there will be a fish dinner catered by Kelsey's. Not exactly like old Fish Fridays, will be a little more penitential; take-out orders will not be available. Asks for Council's support!
- Monthly Coffee and Donuts: seeing more people participate, and, costs are being covered. Is trying to get some teams together to help with C and D.
- Some have asked for something after Saturday night mass. There has also been a suggestion to have coffee (just coffee) available after every mass.
- The welcome calls from Dee Wilkie are very much appreciated by parishioners.

c. Social Justice (John Wilkin) Recently sat next to woman who just joined the parish: she said it was a happy place and loves the music!

- Adopt a Family. Used to go downtown and get name of a family and would go shopping for family. After Covid, went to gift cards, and learned that families much prefer the gift cards. Supported St. Veronica's, St Peter Claver (formerly St. Gregory) as well as SVdP this year. Over \$47,000 collected (highest amount ever by about \$10,000). Attributes the increase in donations in part to a "pulpit push" in the CAM/mass announcements. Normally takes about 6 months to collect. Dedicated giving via ParishSoft is also very helpful.
- Used to serve around 40 families, now around 140 families. With the relatively new SVdP extension, has grown by double of what they used to be able to do. Resurrection is now getting to be known as a giving parish.
- Also did scarves/gloves/shirts collection at Christmas, went well.
- Sister parish St. Mary's in Palestine – Christmas card signing –went ok, not as much participation as expected (just needed signatures, not a money thing). Want to do more to help St. Mary's. Fr. Andy noted that he recently zoomed the pastor there. Seeing about sponsoring school children. Have some Arabic speakers in the parish who can help facilitate communication.

- Cold Weather Shelter in March – with St. Paul, joint effort. Guests are not on campus, but in motels.
- November: USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) issued letter addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants.
- SSSmile Village in India Benefit Dinner will be held in April

9. Pastoral Council Business – Other Topics for Discussion

- Pastoral Council Retreat – June 27th (St. Paul's 8am – 11am) Will include planning workshop and spiritual enrichment
- Nomination of New Council Members – process to begin in March, will discuss in February.
- Volunteers – how to find new ones and appreciate and retain existing ones
 - Possibly fits into the Engage and Connect Committee
- Signs (Welcome Banners, Campus Map Display, Route 40 Signs) – take note of purple Welcome banners on light poles near main church doors entrance! No signs on 40, would like to re-visit this possibility. Even some priests do not know where Resurrection is.
- PC Budget (ran out of time)
- Resurrection Mugs
 - To Pastoral Staff (Sharon Lanza, Carolyn Sherman) (ran out of time)
- State of the Council (ran out of time)
 - February Meeting – Father Andy will report on new guidance for Pastoral Councils put out by Archdiocese of Baltimore
 - Prep for discussion – Council – What is working, What's not working
- Other Items Suggested by Father Andy or Council Members (ran out of time)

10. School Update (Sara Thomas) - absent

11. Actions Needed Resulting from This Meeting:

- Tom to look into better location for CAM clipboards.

- b. Mike, Cathy, and Brad to get together offline to work on ministry/volunteer awareness. The goal is to generate alternatives to a full-scale ministry fair. (see 7.b.)
- c. Fr. Andy will work with Kate for listing of resources for small groups.
- d. Pat Cirasole to provide February opening prayer and reflection.
- e. Carolyn and Sharon – order first batch of Res. Coffee Mugs
- f. Priority – support Welcome Team (Sharon Lanza) on development of Ministry Trifold.
- g. Small Church Committee to design surveys that will go to small group leaders, and maybe participants of small groups to determine certain key areas of information. (see 7.c)

12. Next Pastoral Council Meeting

- a. February 17th @ 7:45pm – Resurrection MP1

13. Closing Prayer & Blessing – Fr. Andy

14. Adjournment 7:40 pm

Parking Lot for Future Discussion / Specific Action & Owner

- 1. Update Constitution & By-Laws of Resurrection Pastoral Council
- 2. Security monitoring of Church Foyer & Hall during weekend masses
- 3. Possible Joint Initiatives with St. Paul's Council (Adoration Chapel, Small Groups, New Parishioner Welcome Lunches, Young Adults)