



Nomination Form for PASTORAL COUNCIL Membership 2026

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council is a consultative body that shares its collective wisdom and gifts with the pastor/canonical administrator through prayerful discernment, study, and dialogue. Operating in accord with the guidelines of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, the Council seeks to reach consensus as it offers advice on the pastoral and spiritual needs of both the parish community and the surrounding neighborhood. The council develops and maintains the parish's mission and vision, engages in continuous pastoral planning, and commits to prayer, stewardship, and discipleship.

SELECTION OF PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastoral Council members will be chosen through prayerful discernment, an ancient tradition reaching as far back as the apostles. The process involves prayer and discussion by the existing council members and the nominees to better understand one another, the role of the council, and the needs of the parish. Through this discernment, a more informed and Spirit-filled decision can be made. SPSA Parish is also committed to employing the Three Keys of Divine Renovation as part of our broader mission of renewal, especially the primacy of the Holy Spirit, which guides this process of discernment. For more information, please visit the Pastoral Council page at stpatshg.org/about-us/pastoral-council/.

Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves or a candidate who they believe is qualified to serve on the Council and who fits the qualities below.

- **Prayerful:** A committed disciple who believes in the Church's mission to make disciples and who views parish life through that lens. Has a personal relationship with Jesus, an active prayer life, regular mass attendance and a desire for ongoing spiritual growth. Recognizes that leadership in the Church is fundamentally spiritual work.
- **Discerning:** Emotionally mature and able to engage in honest, respectful dialogue. Listens well, handles disagreement without taking things personally, and receives feedback with humility. Capable of discerning rather than simply reacting and brings a spirit of hope rooted in Christ and confidence in the future of the Church.
- **Forward-thinking:** Able to think strategically, anticipate needs, and keep the big picture in mind to help the parish move toward its long-term mission. Understands that the Council is consultative in nature, serving the pastor through thoughtful, prayerful input offered with clarity and respect.
- **Pastoral:** Willing to invest the time and attention needed for the role. Able to actively listen to the needs of the parish and act with discretion and sensitivity to important matters while advancing the good of the parish as a whole.
- **Representative:** Able to represent the interests of the entire parish community, rather than a select few.
- **Servant Leader:** Desire to use talent and treasure to advise the pastor on the needs of the parish. Works well with others to address challenges, prioritize tasks, and carry out objectives. Acts with humility, honesty and accountability.



COMMITMENT:

Three (3) council members will be elected. The current representatives are divided into three separate groups, with members elected each year to serve a three-year term. There may be one additional term of office served for “up to” three (3) years.

Meetings: Second Wednesday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May from 6:30-8:30pm.

- The Pastoral and Finance Councils meet jointly on the 3rd Wed of Aug. and Jun.

ELIGIBILITY:

- ✦ Adult member of the Parish
- ✦ Not an employee of SPSA
- ✦ Actively living their Catholic faith
 - Should have received the 3 Sacraments of Initiation. *Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.*
 - Is striving to follow the 5 Precepts of the Church.

(Cut along line above and return to the parish office or place in the offertory basket)

PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATION

Name of nominee: _____

Phone number of nominee: _____

Name of person making nomination: _____

I make this nomination for the following reasons: _____

Please submit your nomination by APRIL 30, 2026