



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.

See Video on Divine Renovation's 3 Keys to Parish Renewal: The Best of Leadership
<https://stpatsgh.org/news-events/nomination-form-for-pastoral-council/>

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastoral Council members will be chosen through prayerful discernment, an ancient tradition reaching as far back as the apostles. It involves prayer and discussion by the existing council members and the nominees to better understand each other, the role of the council, and the needs of the parish. Through this discernment, a more informed and spirit filled decision can be made. Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves or a candidate whom they believe is qualified to serve on the Council and fits the qualities below.

- **Prayerful:** A committed disciple who believes in the Church's mission to make disciples and 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, recognizing 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.
- **Prophetic:** Able to think strategically, keeping the bigger 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, not a select few.
- **Servant Leader:** Desire to use their 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: 2nd Wednesday of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May from 6:30-8:30pm.
The Pastoral and Finance Councils meet together on the 3rd Wed of Aug. and Jun.

ELIGIBILITY: *Please submit nominations by April 30. You can drop this form in the offering basket or submit it to Pam in the Parish Office.*

- ✦ 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.

Name of nominee: _____

Phone number of nominee: _____

Name of person making nomination: _____

I make this nomination for the following reasons: _____

