

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2026

Approved via email 3/13/26

1. **Opening:** The meeting of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Pastoral Council was called to order by Chairman Ray Tucker at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026, in the parish basement. Fr. Michael led the Council in an opening prayer.
2. **Present:** Chairperson: Ray Tucker, Vice Chairperson: Glen Suppes; Members: Adam Kirchman, Misty Bradley, Barb Wentz, Tate Richards, Doug Sprecker, Peggy Worland; Admin Asst/Accountant: Lucinda Roths
Absent: Wendy Dinkel
3. Fr. Michael announced that he had a scheduling conflict and would be leaving early.
4. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. The Agenda was unanimously approved
5. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. The minutes of the previous meeting on 1/18/26 were unanimously approved via email and publicly posted.
6. **Reports**
 - a. **Renewal / Liturgy – Wendy Dinkel**
 - i. **Music**, Sr. Dian Hall- The choir will begin practicing for Holy Week and Easter.
 - ii. **Decorating the church**, Karen Taylor – will decorating and changing decorations for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday. Holy Saturday morning will be decorating for Easter around 8:30am if anyone wants to help.
 - iii. **Children’s Liturgy**, Libby Charvat – On Easter Sunday will give out small “Jesus Loves Me” stuffed animals along with a message of “He is Risen”. There is a 3 month break for Summer and then restart on Labor Day weekend.
 - iv. **Youth Choir** – No Report
 - v. **Baptismal Prep, Marriage Prep, Funerals, Weddings** – The next wedding at St. E’s will be done by Fr. Kevin, prep was done by Fr. Keith. Fr. Michael will do the marriage prep with any new couples scheduled. Lots of baptisms.
 - b. **Education – Adam Kirchman**
 - i. **PRE Education - Mary Harmon** – Rosary project is happening. Grades 1-6 are receiving a rosary. For Lent PRE is starting with prayer a decade of the rosary. 1st Reconciliation was end of February. The will be confessions for the rest of the grades before Easter. Robyn Clark was hired to replace Mary.
 - ii. **Confirmation Prep – Luci Larson** – The Retreat for the 2nd year students was Feb 15. Fr. Kerry Ninemire was the speaker. He and Fr. Larry Letourneau heard confessions to end the retreat. 2nd years are finishing their letters to the Bishop and service hours. Last class is today. Confirmation is March 28 at 10am. They are hosting the Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday morning.
 - iii. **Love and Learn Early Childhood Center** – Continues to serve the community
 - iv. **St Mary’s Grade School & Sacred Heart Junior Senior High School** – continue to see strong family engagement and stable enrollment across grades. Our schools remain committed to forming students academically, spiritually, and socially, preparing them to live as disciples of Jesus on mission.
 - v. **Advancement/ Development Catholic Schools-** Match Madness is Mar 12. Gifts made during Match Madness directly grow our school endowments, helping ensure the long-term sustainability of Catholic education in Salina. Blue & Gold Affair (Spring 2026) Our largest annual fundraising event supporting Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s. This year’s Itemless Item will support the installation of a black security fence around the Salina Catholic Schools campus, enhancing student safety and campus security.
 - vi. **Catholic Schools Facilities & Campus Improvements** - New Fitness Facility Located across from the rectory on Albert Avenue. Construction is progressing well and expected to be completed in late spring. This facility will provide modern strength and conditioning space for Sacred Heart students and athletes. Upcoming Summer Projects Renovation and relocation of the Art Room. Creation of a newly renovated Knights Academic Center (Library/ Tech Center) located across from the school chapel.

These improvements will strengthen both the academic and creative learning environments for our students.

- vii. **Family & Student Survey Insights** - Recent surveys of families and students across our schools continue to show strong support for Catholic education in Salina. Some key themes include: Parents consistently cite Catholic identity and values as the primary reason they choose our schools. Families express strong appreciation for the sense of community and personal attention students receive. Students report feeling safe, known by their teachers, and supported academically and spiritually. Feedback from surveys continues to guide our work in strengthening communication, student support, and faith formation.

c. Christian Service / Family Life – Barb Wentz

- i. St. E's Women's will keep their mission statement in the forefront of their minds by starting each monthly meeting by reading it aloud. They had a guest speaker from the Food Bank and decided to volunteer this year at the Salvation Army to help serve meals. The WG is developing plans for a Welcome Committee information sheet that highlights this group's focus and activities, and will be given to new parishioners. The March meeting will feature Deacon Mark as their guest speaker before the regular meeting,
- ii. Sojourners – Feb meeting had speaker from Ember Hope, a non-profit that serves at-risk youth and families. March meeting had a Lenten presentation by Fr. Keith Weber that focused on the rosary. They collected food items for the Food Bank.
- iii. Bible Study is continuing their study of the Rise and Fall of Ancient Israel.
- iv. The Spiritual Book Club is continuing to study Pope Francis's encyclical on Our Common Home, that deal with global issues like climate change and how Catholics need to respond.
- v. Knights – no report given

d. Finance Council – Doug Sprecker & Misty Bradley – meeting on Tues, March 10.

7. Old Business

a. Pastoral Council Constitution and Diocesan Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils – Copies of the Guidelines and of the Constitution with proposed changes in RED had been previously emailed to the PC members and additional copies were provided at the meeting.

- i. It was agreed that Peggy would give up the PC Secretary duties to Lucinda and the constitution will continue to state that the Secretary position is to be filled by a non-voting individual attending the PC meetings. (Article II-Leadership, Section C – Secretary)
- ii. There was discussion of the term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. (Article II-Leadership, Section B – Officers states that the PC Chairperson's and Vice-Chairperson's terms in those positions is ONE YEAR and neither may have more than 2 terms (2 years) in a row.) The Vice-Chair is expected to take on the Chair position after the final term of the current Chair. (Article II-Leadership, Section C-Duties of the Vice-Chairperson)
- iii. There was much discussion regarding Commissions. It was pointed out that the current functioning of the PC does not follow the Diocesan Guidelines for Commissions.
 - 1. The Diocesan Guidelines (page Section II-39- Commissions) indicate "the commissions are the working arms of the Council". The current functioning is really just reporting on current activities in certain areas. The Guidelines indicate a whole list of the "Functions of Commissions" (Page Section II – 39, Commissions #2) that seem to be lacking under the current format of just reporting. Ray indicated that in the past an Education Commission of several people met at a separate meeting to accomplish the functions as indicated in the Guidelines.
 - 2. The Diocesan Guidelines list 3 required Commissions: Liturgy, Education, Christian Service/Family Life. It was pointed out that the current commission report entitled Christian Service/Family Life is really more about Parish Life than Family Life. The members were encouraged to read page Section II-43 on the specific description of Christian Service / Family Life as well as the descriptions of the other Commissions. It was pointed out the Family Life office of the Diocese focuses on supporting and strengthening marriage and family life.
 - 3. Although no official action was taken, it seems that through discussion the Council may be re-arranging Commission responsibilities, possibly dropping Finance Council liaisons since Lucinda

and Fr. Michael are at both FC and PC meetings; and adding a Family Life Commission separate from the current “commission”.

- iv. Lucinda will make some suggested additional changes to the Constitution, Article VI – Commissions section and email out to all members for review and email discussion.

b. **Safety**

- i. Glen Suppes reported there are 9 people on the Safety Commission. Most have Law or Fire or EMT experience. The 1st meeting was Feb 26. They determined that their current priority will be Active Shooter related. Bids are being sought for Security Cameras with a video screen live feed being watched during church services. They discussed ideas about locking the doors after Mass has started and a doorman would be posted to let in any late comers. They decided not to have a patrol car posted in the parking lot during services. The next meeting is March 19.

c. **Parish Directory**

- i. Karen Taylor is the head of the Parish Directory endeavor. Karen is working on group pictures, Sign up for Picture slots will be after Masses on March 28/29 & April 11/12 & Online, Pictures will be May 6-9 & May 13-16

- d. **Building Committee** – Members to date: Gene Peppersack, Maintenance Coordinator; Joel Bicknell, Finance Council Rep; Adam Kirchman, Pastoral Council Rep; David Larson, retired construction foreman with historical knowledge of the St. E’s buildings. It was noted that Fr. Michale prefers to not have any current construction company owners on the Committee for fear of a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

8. New Business

- a. **New DRE** – Robyn Clark has been hired to replace Mary. She began on Wednesday, March 4. She will be shadowing Mary for the rest of the year. Mary broke her wrist and it is good that Robyn has started.
- b. **Easter Celebration** – Fr. Michael had to leave before this item was addressed....
- c. **Mass Time Change** – Fr. Michael would like to get Parish feedback on changing the time of the daily mass from 8am to 7:30am to accommodate more working people. As it stands now, the attendance is mostly retired individuals. This proposal will be posted in the bulletin for 1 month seeking feedback and placed on the Agenda for the St. E’s Women’s Group.
- d. **Suggestion Box** – Fr. Michael intends to place a suggestion box in the gathering space or mezzanine area for a few weeks seeking suggestions from the parish on changes they wish to see.

9. Additional Discussions

- a. **Prison Ministry** – Glen reported that he participates in the Kolbe Prison Ministries. He has been asked to be the core leader for the Salina Diocese. This ministry needs more men volunteers, donations, and prayer. It says that it is very rewarding and volunteers do not need to “know the Bible”. He states that the prisoners “have nothing”. There are two prisons in the Salina Diocese: Ellsworth and Norton.
- b. **March Meeting** – The regularly scheduled March 15 meeting is during Spring Break. The members present proposed that the meeting be moved to March 8 upon approval by Fr. Michael.
- c. **Saint Presentation** – Ray presented on St. Ignatius Loyola and Peggy presented on Saint Prisca (Priscilla) since she was absent last meeting to present.
- d. **Member Terms** – Barb and Doug are going off the council in June – last meeting in May. (Two new members are needed to begin in July.) Lucinda will research member terms and provide a timeline for endings.

10. Closing Prayer – Adam led the Council in prayer.

11. Next Meetings: May 17, July 19, Sep 20, Nov 15, Jan 17...