

St. Catharine of Siena Church  
4975 Boyertown Pike  
Reading, PA 19606

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday October 1, 2025

**Attendance:** Fr. Brian Miller, Kenzie Adame, Michael Balla - Chair, Paul R. Bassler – Vice-Chair, Lisa Ianni, Merrick Plaisance, Thomas Rochowicz, Lisa Siciliano - Secretary, Deacon John Stapleton, Deanna Stratton, Cynthia Waldman, Tim Waldman, and Michael Wertz

**Absent:** Father JV, Deacon Tyler Davis, Karen McDevitt, and Marci Zambito – DRE Ex-Officio member

**Opening Prayer:** Father Miller

**Review of Minutes:** Approved

**Old Business:**

Father Miller discussed:

100 Year Anniversary

- The **Parish Stewardship Fair and Picnic** had good attendance. Thank you to everyone who planned and helped at that event.
- The **Parish Photo Directory** is underway with pictures in September, October, and November. The Directories will be available in early 2026.
- The **Parish Cookbook** is complete with three hundred (300) recipes and is in production. They will sell for \$15. Payments by the Parish Venmo QR code, cash, or check.
- **Forty Hours** is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> with different speakers each evening.

Reorganization of the Lobby and Crying Room

- Thank you to Deanna Stratton for coordinating the reorganization of the Lobby area and Crying Room.
- Father Miller plans to use the Altar in the Crying Room for adoration during funerals.
- He also reported that the stained-glass windows from the Chapel are being repurposed for use at the Church.

### Hallow Launch

- Our Parish partnership with the Hallow app began at the beginning of September. Lisa Siciliano reported that as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, there are 173 members in our Hallow Community and that 7,552 prayers were prayed in the first month for a total of 56,832 minutes of prayer. Parishioners posted 69 prayer intentions so we could pray for each other, and 4 small groups were created. Prayer sessions that we will be doing together will continue to become available on the app each month. Father Miller indicated that he plans to post a special prayer intention for our Parish each week.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage

- Christine McAdams is coordinating a bus for our Parish to travel to the National Basilica in Washington, DC on Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Only a few spots are still available.

### Bible Study

- Father Miller's Bible study on the Book of Revelation is popular with about 70 people in attendance in person and more watching via YouTube. It will continue throughout the Fall until December 3rd. See the Bulletin for the dates and times.

### Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) Update

- The Parish is about to roll out initiatives in the 3 focus areas. That includes the Middle School Youth Group "Faith on Fire" as well as increased communication among Parish ministries to coordinate calendars.

### OCIA Update

- Mike Balla reported that 25 people signed up to attend OCIA this year. In addition to the in-person sessions, there will be some ability to participate remotely which is helpful for the college students who are interested in becoming Catholic.

### Hospitality Ministry Update

- Deacon Stapleton reported that he plans to bring Ministers of Hospitality back starting with the 9:30 AM Sunday Masses and hopefully extending to the other Masses in the future. Several volunteers signed up at the Stewardship Fair. Deacon will get "Minister of Hospitality" badges to be worn on a cord by the volunteers so they can easily be identified by someone needing assistance.

### By-Laws Revision

- Mike Balla reported that he will be e-mailing the final DRAFT of the By-Laws revisions to Council members so they can be reviewed to hopefully be approved at the next meeting.

### Security

- Father Miller is working with a committee to revise security protocols.

## **New Business:**

October Adoration - Adoration for the month of October starts Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Confirmation - Confirmation will be October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Veteran's Day Mass – a Veteran's Day Mass will be celebrated on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM followed by a hot breakfast sponsored and served by our Knights of Columbus.

Christmas Boutique - the Christmas Boutique will be held Friday November 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great fundraising event.

Advent Daily Masses – extra daily Masses will be held at 7:00 PM on the Tuesdays and Thursdays during Advent.

Breakfast with Santa – The Knights of Columbus are having Breakfast with Santa on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Parish Group Event – representatives from all Parish groups who hold meetings or events at the Church are asked to attend a meeting on January 13, 2026, to work on coordinating a master calendar for 2026. The snow date for the meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup>.

School Update – St. Catharine's School enrollment is 238 for 2025/2026 which is the same as the prior school year.

Matthew Kelly Books – Th Knights of Columbus have ordered 250 copies of his book to give away at our Parish.

## **Subcommittee Updates:**

- Communications and Fundraising: No reports.

- Facilities:

Mike Balla reported that:

- He received quotes to repair the shed near the ballfield and for minor repairs to the Pavilion. Based on the estimates, a new shed may be purchased instead.
- Parts were ordered for repairs in the Men's restroom.
- The committee will secure the bookcases to the wall in the Crying Room.
- New carpeting is planned for the Meeting Room.
- The Confessionals are being redesigned.

- Faith/Spiritual:

Deanna Stratton reported:

- The library was moved to the Crying Room, thinned and reorganized. Duplicate books were donated. She is looking for people to provide a short article for the Bulletin each week to spotlight the books available in our Library. The bookshelves will be anchored to the wall, carpet was put on the floor, and decorations were added to make it a welcoming space during Mass.

- The New Parishioner Brunch was September 21st after the 11:30 AM Mass and had more than 30 in attendance. This continues to be a popular event where new parishioners get to know their Pastor and the various ministries St. Catharine's has to offer.
- A Little Kids ministry is in the works for 2026. Contact Deanna if you have young children and would like to participate.
- Rosaries are being said 30 minutes before all Masses in October. Plan to come early and participate. Thank you to Maribeth Gardella for coordinating.
- A volunteer is needed to plan another Parish Chili Cookoff.
- There will be a Men's Advent night on Friday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The speaker will be Dr. Adrian Quinn.
- There will be a Women's Advent night on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. The speaker will be Tamara Klapatch.
- A breakfast for the OCIA participants will be November 30<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 AM Mass.
- The committee is working to finalize a Christmas gift for parishioners.
- Restrooms: Signs are planned for the restrooms to notify users about Lifeline, Safe Berks, and upcoming Parish events. A mission statement will also be posted. A potty seat for young children is now available along with a sign so parents will know it is there.
- The Millions of Monica's group is working to increase the number of people attending the various sessions each month.
- Future events are a Q and A session with Father Miller; potluck events with recipes from the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook; and trivia/game nights.

**Blessing:** Father Miller gave a blessing to close the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Lisa A. Siciliano  
 Secretary