St. Paul's Parish Council Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 6:30 p.m. - St. Paul, Newhall

Members Present: Jason Urell, Barb Volesky, Rosie Olsen, Doug McDonald, Mike Benson, Christine McGovern. Absent: Cheree' Saulsbury.

Fr. Jake addressed as a group all five of the cluster parishes and explained how the parish councils will be changing given the new pastorate assignments being disclosed in April 2026. Items discussed include:

1. Difference between parish council, pastorate commission, and standing committee
2. Number of people on each;
3. Proposed meeting timeline;
4. Interest survey that all current members will need to complete – pg. 24 of packet which was emailed for paper survey or to complete online at https://forms.gle/zRZs8fC1jUcyyojd7

Fr. Jake proposed questions for each parish to discuss. Those include:

1. If your parish has Sunday Mass after July 2026:
    a. How do we incorporate and welcome people into the ministries at Mass?
    b. How do we make people coming to Mass feel welcome?
    c. What are questions someone might have if they have never been to our church?

2. If your parish does not have Sunday Mass after July:
    a. What are your challenges as a parish?
    b. How can you as a council respond to each specific challenge?
    c. What do parishioners need to grieve the end of an era of Sunday Masses at this parish?
    d. How can your parish celebrate the history of the parish?
    e. What can the parish that has Sunday Mass do to make your parishioners feel welcomed?

3. Are there others who are not currently on pastoral councils that would be good additions to future standing committees or parish finance councils?

Upcoming Dates:

- April 15, 2026 – St. Paul Parish Council meeting only. St. Paul's, Newhall, 6:30 p.m. Meeting to further discuss above questions after announcement of new assignments.
- April 30, 2026 – Deadline for Interest Survey
- May 20, 2026 – Next pastoral council meeting at IC, Van Horne, at 6:30 p.m.
- July 2026 – Meeting with new pastor, after July 14, TBD on membership/attendance
- August 2026 – Corporate meeting for current parish chair and finance persons
- New pastor will appoint Council and Commissioner members by September 1, 2026

No other business was discussed, and no committee reports were shared.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m., at St. Paul, Newhall, to discuss above questions.

Respectfully submitted: Christine McGovern