

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Pastoral Council Meeting
Agenda April 8, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Elsa Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

- II. **Opening Prayer:** Father Pedro Castillo

- III. **Attendance:** Milissa Cuéllar, Gabriela Olivares, Rose Ann Salinas, Ramón González, Ashley Villarreal, Elsa Rivera, Father Pedro Castillo, Mary Alice Tenorio, Joseph Montoya, Calixto Cobos, Rafael Torres, Beatriz Banda, María Ortiz Leonides, Tanya Yanez
Guests: Dora Trevino, Suzie Plyler, Jeanne Sustaita, Juan Cisneros

- IV. **Public Comment:** Suzie would like to thank Father for all the Easter/Holy week services. She indicated that they missed the Easter Egg Hunt because it was not promoted in the bulletin or announced and not in the parish calendar. She would like to know who is in charge of that event as it would have been a good community event if everyone knew about it. Joseph will get in touch with the Guadalupanas as they have been in charge of planning the Easter Egg Hunt in the past. Jeanne inquired about the sound system since our last update was that it should be done by Easter. Elsa stated that the latest update was from March 27th and that it is currently delayed. Juan Cisneros was invited by Father Pedro because Juan had contacted him to discuss a proposal. Juan is a sound artist and is making a sound piece for the bell tower, a custom composition. There is a nexus grant from the city of Austin, and the deadline is a week from tomorrow. It's at no cost to us if Juan wins the grant we would get 20% of what's awarded. Joseph motioned to have a decision to Juan by Friday that the Pastoral Council agrees on whether to approve or not of his submitting his bell tower melodies for the grant. Ashley seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- V. **Approval of March Minutes:** (3 min) Motion to approve March minutes. Ramón, first motion. Beatriz, second motion. The motion passed unanimously; the March minutes were approved.

- VI. **Financial Report:** (5 min) Tanya reports that total collections for the month is \$41,458, so we brought in \$11,051 dollars a week during the month of March, which is more than we had been bringing in via collections. From the beginning of the fiscal year to now, we have \$584k in income and \$710k in expenses. We are over budget by \$125k. We have recently started the sound system campaign by adding it as a second collection. The "building fund" line on the financial reports includes the sound system funds. We received \$6.5k in March. From fundraising, the income for March was \$29,833. We have several parish wide fundraisers coming up in April, May, June, and July via the Stewardship Committee and these 3 will go into this fiscal year so it'll help offset the deficit we're in currently. It was asked if there was a way to split up what each fundraiser brings in and Tanya said she would look into it.

VII. New Business:

A. 120th Church Anniversary Celebration Proposal (15 min) - Dora Treviño

Dora reported that Father would like to have 4 events in 2027. Based on this the committee has come up with a Procession, from old church site to current site following with a bilingual church history presentation. Anniversary mass, hold an outdoor mass with all previous priests and current with a meal afterwards. Celebrating our elders, Saturday bilingual Mass and a final Posada. With all the fundraisers for the 120th anniversary on brick sponsors, rosaries, ornaments, booklets, and prayer cards. They plan to begin fundraising in either October or November 2026. Dora talked with Father about custom 120 shirts but won't be doing it for the anniversary but will be for Jamaica. Meet with Julie Maxwell of Universal Church Directories on July 10, 2026. Portraits will be scheduled from Tuesday, Sept 22nd - Monday, Oct. 5th, 2026. In celebrating 120 of the church it was also suggested we have 120 Acts of Mercy for 2027 as a goal for parishioners.

B. Facilities Committee Update on Current Projects and Survey of Parish (20 min) - Cal Cobos

Cal walked us about to the tree and told us that the tree has been assessed by an arborist and is diseased and dying. Need to remove the concrete surrounding. Also to show that the collected water from the tree is resulting in the sinking and eroding of the sidewalk along the side of the church and leading towards the basement. Cal later this week will send the urgent list of everything needed. In regards to the hall the ac needs replacement and estimates that will be \$1-\$1.5k. The chapel expansion should be completed within two weeks. Estimate that just cutting the tree will be around \$1.5k.

C. School Bus for Sale (10 min) - Father Pedro Castillo

Received a paper flyer about the school bus. Would need to evaluate but all agreed that while not a first need, a bus could be very useful. Rafael, Elsa, Ashley, and Father Pedro will go check out the bus at El Buen Pastor.

D. Ministry Fair Planning (10 min) - Elsa Rivera

Depending on which ministries have yet to turn in the ministry fair summaries 1-2 sentences. Reach out to our groups we are liaisons to. They can either turn it in or send it to us. We need to have the google doc completed by next Friday the 17th to be able to put together the ministry guide. Reminder that the tables are provided and bring your own chairs.

VIII. Old Business (submitted in Addendum): (2 min)

A. Other Committee Updates

Communications Committee - A voting form was sent out to the Pastoral Council to vote on a new e-giving platform and website platform. 10 votes were submitted. 10 out of 10 voted to approve Push Pay as the new e-giving platform. 8 out of 10 voted to approve e-Catholic as the new website platform, 1 voted no, and 1 voted "abstained". We informed Carolina Cisneros to proceed with getting Push Pay on March 30, 2026. There was a deal from the sales rep that if we signed up for Push Pay before the end of March, we would get one month free. We also informed her about moving forward with eCatholic. We will work together with John Mendoza to get our current website switched over properly.

Stewardship Committee Updates - 1. Meetings will be held every 4th Tuesday of the month. The May meeting will be held on May 26 @ 6:30 in room #5. Leadership and re-organization of the committee will be discussed then. 2. Committee members who will help with database cleanup attended the Ministry Platform database training on April 21, we will discuss how/when they will assist on this project. 3. The committee had 15 parishioners sign up at the ministry fair. All will be invited to the committee meeting on May 26. 4. April fundraiser (gordita sale) raised \$2000, May fundraiser (Mother's Day) raised \$1636. Fundraisers for June/July will be discussed in the May meeting. 5. The second quarter financial report through April 30, 2026 will be published the weekend of May 16/17 or 23/24.

B. Update on Parish Projects

Sound System Update: The parts are on order, but delivery has been delayed. We are waiting on an update from the vendor.

Facilities assessment will be completed in May 2026. Luis Garcia is working on putting the list that the pastoral council and finance council had requested that will have everything that is needed along with cost estimates. The list will be prioritized by what is most crucial down to least. We will then be able to provide that information to the diocese for a capital campaign.

- IX. **Pastors' Comments:** Father inquired about hearing about St. Vincent De Paul update. Mary Alice reported that room 4 is now the SVdP room. They have a SVdP table and have the tables set up and they have their spiritual advisors. With people already reaching out ready to donate and they have a mentor church, St. Therese, who would also like to donate. Next month they will be having an open house May 30th/31st. Also adding a drop down in the updated push pay specifically for SVdP.
- X. **Last minute announcements:** Cal announced that the Divine Mercy Group is having their day retreat on May 2nd from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Gabriela mentioned a potential for next year having a blessing of the easter basket. Joseph mentioned speaking to the ministries, and coordinating invitations that are open to everyone and events. To help build our community - in lieu of the Egg hunt so we can share more. Elsa mentioned that there is a person following Father around and loitering and bothering people in the office. Elsa mentioned making this an item for the next meeting to discuss further steps to take in regards to this.

XI. **Next Meeting Date and Time: May 13, 2026 at 6:45 PM**

XII. **Closing Prayer:** Father Pedro Castillo

XIII. **Adjournment:** 8:48 p.m.