

Spirituality Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Val Casada, Georgia Capobianco, Christine Warner, Angela Sutoksky, Jorge Vallado (Alvaro), Mary Ellen Tighe, Bill Tighe

Meeting summary

The meeting covered various aspects of parish life and spirituality ministry activities at St. Francis of Assisi, including upcoming events focused on faith development, co-ministry support, and community engagement. The group also addressed next steps and plans for Lenten activities, prayer initiatives, and spiritual formation opportunities, emphasizing the role of various parish members in supporting these efforts.

St. Francis Jubilee Year Planning

We discussed the upcoming Jubilee year dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, highlighting its themes of peace with God, a return to the gospel, and simple faith. It is a spiritual opportunity for Catholics to seek plenary indulgence this year.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration and Rite of Holy Communion

Bill thanked the Deacons, Christine Warner, and spirituality members for their involvement in First Friday Adorations and shared the updated schedule. Georgia Capobianco shared personal reflections on the importance of First Friday adoration and its role in her return to the church. The group discussed potential changes to the First Friday adoration schedule, considering a return to evening hours, for greater attendance but for now, we must maintain the current time due to Deacon availability, logistical constraints, Lent, Fish Fry's, etc.

Holy Spirit Bible Study Planning

Angela Sutoksky shared a 6-session Bible course on The Holy Spirit, by Father Smiga. The plans are to keep sessions to 12 participants per group and use the book which includes biblical quotes and sections on contemporary relevance. Timeframe could be in May on Wednesdays at 9:45. Next steps are approval and confirmation of dates/space.

Catholic Adult Faith Formation

Bill discussed The School of Mary Spiritual Director Formation Program, personal experience and willingness to share Lectio Divina and Prayer of the Heart during Lent. The group recognized a need for more adult refresher courses, potentially involving deacons, seminarians, or pastor, to deepen our understanding of the Catholic Church, Sacred Scripture and Church practices. The group discussed the possibility of organizing additional study sessions or retreats, with a focus on ensuring suitable spaces are available and that there is interest from parishioners.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Distribution Outside Mass

We discussed the parish program of distributing Holy Communion outside of Mass to homebound, hospitalized parishioners, highlighting the role of extraordinary ministers and the need for greater parish participation. Volunteers are always needed/welcomed.

Lenten Programs and Retreat Planning

Bill discussed upcoming activities at St. Francis, including a men's retreat led by Deacon Ralph, with the theme "the call to authentic manhood." Over twenty-six have signed up.

Grieving with Great Hope

Starting Wed. Feb. 25th, Tom Sintes will lead a 6-week program "Grieving with Great Hope" found on Formed.org. See the bulletin, flyer, Facebook and website for details.

Lenten Resources and Events

We discussed the Lenten schedule and available resources, including live stations of the Cross, Penance service, and Lenten materials in both English and Spanish. Spirituality ministry will be offering Lenten reflection books. For other Lenten books, see Georgia Capobianco for the "Desert Walk", and the Men of St. Francis for Lenten Books.

Eucharistic Encounter, March 6-7.

Eucharistic Encounter, which will take place in Gainesville on March 6th and in Jacksonville on March 7th, featuring speakers such as Julianne Stanz.

2026 NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage, May 24-25.

In honor of America's 250th year, the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will carry the theme 'One Nation Under God'. It is an invitation to realign our lives, communities, and country under the sovereignty of Christ. It's a call to build unity through prayer, and to let Jesus, present in the Eucharist, renew and heal the heart of our country, one soul at a time. The Diocese of St. Augustine is honored by hosting the start of the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route of the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, on May 24-25, 2026. There is the possibility the Eucharistic pilgrimage procession could come through St. Francis and/or St. Michaels on the way to Savannah GA. Specific event details will be available when registration opens on March 18th. As pilgrims on this route, we walk with Christ so that His love might draw our nation back to Him. You're invited to join us, in person or in spirit, and offer prayers and sacrifices for the renewal of America.

Prayer Share

Angela Sukotsky and Mary Ellen Tighe provided an update on Prayer Share, a monthly 'small group' meeting held on the first Thursday at 5:30 PM, where participants discuss prayer and spiritual topics in a casual setting. All are welcome to join this ministry.

Prayer Watch

Prayer Watch is co-led by Mary Gustafson, Sandy Pineault and Bill Tighe. Prayer requests continue, and graces flow from the Holy Spirit through the many prayers said by the Prayer Watch group, now 100+ members. Examples were shared of how this ministry has helped many parishioners.

Parish Engagement and Spiritual Opportunities

Bill discussed other parish activities and opportunities for involvement, including reaching out to **new parishioners**, the **daily/weekly rosary** led by Ami Gold, Val Casada, Georgia Capobianco, Deacon Tom and others; **Spiritual Direction** offered by Ted Benning.

Other spiritual highlights are the **weekly spirituality reflections**, spotlight updates from parishioners Olivia Kiernan, campus **FOCUS and SEEK**, and seminarian Bryan Roberts, and fellow seminarians at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary. For more details see the bulletin, Facebook, website, and ongoing **spiritual ministry** communications.

Next steps

- Bill: Remove Maureen's name from the Ministry to the Sick and Holy Communion visitation log
- Add Doug Murray to the Holy Communion Visitation Log. Ellen, his wife, brings Holy Communion.
- Prayer Watch: Send any updates to the group regarding Rebecca Gallerizo and Deacon Bill.
- Check with the Office on new parishioner welcome packets. Can Spirituality info be included?
- Post a sign-up form for the Lenten Reflection books, order and issue books by Lent.

Next steps (cont.)

- Post sign-up form for the Lenten Lectio Divina and Prayer of the Heart program during Lent.
- Bill: Order additional copies of the "Desert Walk" book for interested parishioners as needed.
- Angela: Discussed a Fall Women's Retreat, and will coordinate with members on theme, etc.
- Check with Deacons/Pastor on visitations to the parish sick and homebound in the visitation log.
- Send a request to Father for approval to run the "Holy Spirit in the Bible" course.
- Angela, Mary Faith, Jenny: Prepare to teach the "Holy Spirit in the Bible" course (class tbd)