

Parish Council Nomination Form

St. Anne Parish, Southborough

What is the role of the Parish Council?

The Parish Council consists of individuals chosen from the parish community who, together with the pastor/parish administrator, determine the direction of the parish, oversee its pastoral activity and temporal affairs, and proclaim the Christ-centered mission of the local parish and universal Catholic Church. It is a consultative body that acts as a wisdom group, bringing the insights and gifts of the community in leadership to the pastor and parish. The Council, governed by the norms of the Bishop of the Worcester Diocese, develops and maintains a parish mission statement, is governed by a set of bylaws, engages in continuous pastoral planning, develops appropriate policies for the parish, and ensures the on-going ministry of parish commissions (the working and implementation of bodies within the parish), and they model commitments to prayer, stewardship and discipleship.

Parish Council Leadership Expectations

Qualifications: Candidates are parish leaders, and thus it is only reasonable to ask them to have demonstrated leadership qualities: These can be summarized by the acronym LEAD:

- **Leadership Experience:** Parish Council members are called on to discuss parish ministry from a leadership perspective. Thus, it is important that council members have learned to think and act like leaders, and that they are knowledgeable about the people and programs they are discussing. They also should possess some "leadership capital," broad respect within the parish. Leadership experience within the business or secular sphere is valuable, but demonstrated leadership within the Church, particularly within parish ministries, is critical.
- **Education in Relevant Subjects:** Parish Council members will be advising and assisting with parish ministry. It is essential that council members have a sound working knowledge of Church teaching, the Bible, Church structure and policy, and general familiarity with the mission and ministries of the Catholic Church. Formal higher education is not a requirement, but demonstrated informal education and training is essential.
- **Active Commitment to the Church:** In order to advise and assist, Parish Council members should be actively committed to the identity, mission, teaching, leadership and ministries to the Roman Catholic Church, as well as to the ministry of St. Anne Parish.
- **Discipleship:** As parish leaders, Parish Council members should be intentional disciples, modeling a sincere commitment to live as followers of Jesus Christ and attempting to emulate the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Parish Council members responsibilities can be summarized with the acronym **CARE**:

- **Communicate:** Parish Council members are called to be (individually and collectively) a conduit of effective bi-directional communication between the pastor/parish administrator and the congregation.
- **Advise:** Parish Council members are called to advise the pastor/parish administrator in effectively ministering to the needs of the parish and fulfilling the mission of the Church within the parish boundaries. Final authority rests with the pastor (and ultimately with the bishop), but council members should be able to provide "local knowledge" and continuity of relationship with parish members and the broader community.
- **Respond:** As issues and ministry needs arise within the parish, council members are called to assist the pastor in effectively responding in a timely manner.
- **Equip:** Parish Council members should assist the pastor in equipping the people to do good works and carry out the mission of the parish.

Effective Parish Council Members are:

- **Prayerful:** They are believers who attend Mass and other liturgies regularly. They willingly share their faith with others and seek to know God more deeply.
- **Pastoral:** They actively listen to the needs of people. They act with discretion and sensitivity in important parish matters. They facilitate difficult conversations with respect, work to reconcile differences and offer comfort to members of the parish.
- **Representative:** They have the ability to represent the interests of all members of the parish, not only a few.
- **Discerning:** They work hard to listen to other perspectives, and through prayer and dialogue strive to reach consensus for the greater good.
- **Servant Leaders:** They respect Church Teaching, the authority of the pastor/parish administrator and Bishop, and are loyal to the unique mission of the Church in the world and are willing to challenge the status quo to complete that mission. They engage in long-range and insightful planning for the parish.
- **Collaborative stewards:** They create and sustain an environment that values and maximizes the personal, financial and material gifts of the parishioners. They work well with others and understand the importance of sharing time, talent and treasure.

Eligibility:

- A Confirmed Catholic
- At least 18 years of age
- An active practicing member of the parish
- A registered member of the parish

Nominating process:

After considering the role and qualities of the Parish Council, we invite you to nominate yourself or someone else to be considered to serve. Council members serve a three-year term, and may serve up to two consecutive terms. Please fill out the nomination form on the following page, place it in a sealed envelope marked to the attention of the Parish Council Nominating Committee, and deliver to the Parish Office.

Prospective Candidates will be contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee to arrange for an interview. Once the interviews have been completed, qualified candidates will be presented to the Parish Council for a vote.

Parish Pastoral Council Nomination Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE
NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF YEARS REGISTERED AT ST. ANNE PARISH: _____

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU, OR THE PERSON THAT YOU ARE NOMINATING, WOULD SERVE WELL ON THE PARISH COUNCIL?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. A vertical green margin line runs down the left side of the page. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There are some faint, illegible markings scattered across the surface, possibly from a previous scan or light bleed-through.

Signature _____ Date _____