

Pastoral Council FAQs (frequently asked questions)

How many members are on the Pastoral Council and what is the term length?

- There are twelve parish members, the pastor and the pastoral associate for a total of 14 members.
- Members serve a three-year term; typically, four new members are chosen annually.

What are the main qualifications needed to serve on the Pastoral Council?

- Possessing a willingness to share your gifts, in service to our Parish community.
- Being a registered parishioner of Saint Joseph on the Rio Grande church.
- Being active in the church.

What is the time commitment?

- The Pastoral Council meets monthly, usually on the third Monday, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Meetings are held in the Parish Office conference room.
- The Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Vice Secretary) meets with the pastor, on the second Monday of each month, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., as well. Meetings are held in the Parish Office conference room. Members of the Executive Committee are elected by the members of the Pastoral Council, at the beginning of the new Pastoral Council year (August – July). The exception is the Chair, who is selected by the current year Pastoral Council members.
- The Pastoral Council plans and executes the following activities: Orientation Retreat for the new the Pastoral Council, Fall Parish Retreat, Annual meeting of Ministry Leaders, Winter Retreat for Pastoral Council members, Parish Lenten Mission, Recognition of High School Graduates, Parish Fiesta, and Elections. Different committees are responsible for each of the above events. Committee members are chosen for the events based on interest and ability. If selected to serve on one or more of these committees, additional time is required for planning, preparation and execution of these events.

What is the purpose of the Pastoral Council?

- To be a visionary body that examines the state of the parish.
- To be the advisory body to the pastor; and to achieve the goals set for the parish, by working with the pastor.
- To listen to parishioner comments, concerns and questions and address those through the Pastoral Council at the monthly meeting.
- The Pastoral Council approves the establishment of new ministries in the parish.