First Discernment Evening

7:00pm  Gathering Prayer

Vatican II and Baptismal Call to shared responsibility

Pastoral Council – a way of shared responsibility

The Mission of the Church

The basic areas of parish life: Leadership, Community, Worship, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Social Ministry and Service

7:30pm  Clarifying our understanding of Pastoral Councils

The purpose and focus of Council Ministry

7:45pm  Qualities and Gifts for Pastoral Council members

Quiet time and sharing

- Gifts you bring to the council
- Pastoral and Spiritual needs you see in the parish
- Your vision for the parish

8:15pm  Decision to remain in process or not

Questions to take home and reflect on for next evening

Closing prayer
First Evening of Discernment

Reflection and Sharing questions

1. The gifts that I bring to council ministry are:
   a) 
   b) 
   c) 

2. These are the spiritual and pastoral needs I see in the parish:
   a) 
   b) 
   c) 

3. I envision the parish five years from now as…
Decision at close of First Evening:

At this time I wish to

_________ continue in the discernment process

_________ discontinue in the discernment process

This is a thought I take away with me this evening

Other comments:

Name: ____________________________
Some questions to ask for council discernment
To take home for personal reflection in preparation for
the Second Evening of Discernment

1. How do I feel about being on the council?
   Am I feeling intent on being a new member?
   Am I feeling unworthy or ungifted?
   Am I feeling detached – I could go either way?
   Anything else?

2. What are the pros for me serving? (gifts, time in my life)

3. What are the cons? (circumstances)

4. What excites/interests me in being on the council?

5. What are my reservations?

6. From the people gathered on the first evening, who do I think could best
   minister as a pastoral council member?
Second Evening of Discernment

7:00pm  Gathering prayer
Comments and Questions from the first session

7:15pm  Reflection on Discernment Questions
- Each person shares for a few minutes on his/her reflection on the discernment questions during the past week.

8:00pm  Quiet Reflection and Decision
Each person decides whether to remain in the process or withdraw.

8:15pm  Closing prayer