

St. Raymond Catholic Church Pastoral Council Charter

St. Raymond Church Mission

St. Raymond Church is a community united by our Catholic Faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek communion with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through ongoing personal and communal conversion to Christ and a deeper commitment to the mission Jesus gives each of us to preach the Gospel. The sacred scriptures and sacraments of the Church sustain us. We dedicate ourselves to Truth and strive to grow in love of God and neighbor through community, prayer, study, and service, as we work by grace to build up in one another and share freely with others, the abundance of magnificent gifts God has given us.

St. Raymond Church Vision

As disciples of Jesus, we are “children of God” and “brothers and sisters in Christ.” Jesus himself says, “Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Matthew 12:50). We welcome all to belong to our Catholic family and to inherit with us in Christ the mission to preach the Gospel.

Pastoral Council Mission

“To examine & consider all that relates to pastoral work & to offer practical conclusions on these matters so the life & activity of the People of God be brought into greater conformity with the Gospel.” *[Decree on Pastoral Office of Bishops, Second Vatican Council]*

Pastoral Council Purpose

To be an advisory leadership team to the pastor “to help maintain the integrity of the parish mission & resultant goals and objectives through effective pastoral planning.” 1) To investigate, 2) discern/consider, 3) draw conclusions/give counsel, & 4) monitor/evaluate. *[Archdiocese of Los Angeles]*

Functions *[Rev. David Pettingill, Archdiocese of San Francisco]*

- To engage in the ministry of leadership for the entire parish
- To work with the pastor and pastoral staff in shaping the parish to create a mission of evangelization and emergence of the Reign of God by setting parish pastoral direction, goals, and priorities
- To work with the pastor and pastoral staff in both studying and discerning the future direction for parish life and in creating a strategic pastoral plan
- To develop well-formed leaders of parish ministries, groups and communities and in a synergistic effort at vision, long-and short-range planning, strategic prioritization of resources, and evaluation of parish efforts
- To unite the work of staff, Leadership Communities and Ministering Communities toward a greater spirit of and behaviors of collaboration
- To work with pastor, pastoral staff, school principal and all other parish groups and parishioners toward the felt experience of unity in its mission, which is church
- To work cooperatively and collaboratively with all parish organizations and parishioners in incarnating the 7 Elements of Parish Life: 1) Evangelization, 2) Worship, 3) Word/Faith Formation/Education, 4) Community (including family consciousness), 5) Outreach/Service, 6) Administration, 7) Leadership/Stewardship *[Gubish, Revisioning the Parish Pastoral Council]*
- To foster constructive communication among parishioners, parish leaders and priests
- To insure a healthy balance in its agenda of shared prayer, reflection on Scripture, life sharing, ministry and business
- To work with the pastor, pastoral staff, and all other groups toward connection and interdependence with the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the universal church, and other pastoral alliances with other faith communities

Parish Pastoral Council Membership

Appointed Members (*voting*)

- Prospective members are selected in a parish-wide discernment process led by the current Pastoral Council each year and then appointed by the Pastor.
- Members must be willing to serve as an active liaison with a group of the Church's ministries.
- Consists of a minimum of 6 parishioners:
 - Includes Chairperson, Secretary, general members (Pastor appoints chairperson)
 - Must be registered parishioners of St. Raymond Church
 - Must be fully-initiated Catholics
 - Must be active participants in the life of the parish
 - Must demonstrate the spiritual values and scriptural understanding of servant leadership and possess a mature Christian perspective
 - Must be available to attend meetings
 - Must be able to participate in formation activities
- Serve three-year term at Pastor's request. Members leave council at the end of their term but may return at a later time at the discretion of Pastor.
- Staggered terms: 2 rotate off and 2 rotate on every year.
- Pastor may decide to ask a member to resign at the Pastor's discretion.
- Pastor may specifically appoint a member to fill an unexpired term to provide the council with a particular expertise or to add a particular demographic to the council.

Ex-Officio Members (*non-voting*)

- Pastor
- Parochial Vicar
- Principal, St. Raymond School
- Pastoral Associates
- Administrative Associate

Liaisons (*non-voting*)

- Finance Council Chair
- Other liaisons as deemed necessary by Pastor and Pastoral Council

Operation of Parish Pastoral Council

- Pastor and chairperson, or their representatives, must be present in order to conduct official council business.
- Confidentiality is expected when council business is indicated as confidential by Pastor. Otherwise, minutes of meetings are recorded by Secretary and published on website.
- Meetings are generally scheduled monthly with a two-month hiatus over summer. Meeting agenda is provided prior to the meeting.
- Chairperson and Secretary provide for appropriate communication of agenda and actions with the parish community.
- A bi-annual strategic planning workshop and annual strategic planning workshops as well as Town Hall meetings may be expected.