Saint Jude Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Draft Minutes

Attendees: Fr. Weber, Julie Barber, Peter Benz, Greg Branson, Alvaro Garcia-Velez, Tom Mullooly, Susan Ray, Andy Schmitt, Annie Tower, Tim Weiss**,** Susie Cabrera, Mickie Steldt, Andrew Meindl

Youth attendee: Lucas Cabrera

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Corrections: St. Vincent de Paul collection was mistakenly listed instead of the food pantry; April collection totaled 21 bags and $280. Accounting assistant last name corrected to Stanish (S-T-A-N-I-S-C-H).
- Conclusion: Amended minutes approved by motion First Tim W. Second Greg B.

Pastor's Remarks

- Pastoral Council Discernment:
    - Candidates welcomed; reflection questions distributed for prayer ahead of discernment on Saturday, May 30, 2026 (3:30–5:00 PM), followed by mass and reception. Process includes brief presentations, prayer, reflection, Q&A, opportunities to withdraw, initial ballot, and cumulative final voting to fill four seats (up to sixteen candidates).
- Staffing Updates:
    - Deanna Muñoz hired as Director of Faith Formation (start date June 15, 2026), replacing Heather.
    - Father Peter, a PhD candidate from Vietnam, will move into St. Jude in July or mid-August 2026; studying at Marquette; expected tenure through 2031.
- Upcoming Events:
    - Eucharistic procession after 11 AM mass on June 7, 2026 (Corpus Christi) to the Carmelite convent on Dewey Avenue.
    - Father Mark's farewell mass: Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 5 PM with reception.
- Community Connections:
    - Handmaids of the Lord sisters, moving into the old Dominican convent, visited the parish.
    - July cookout planned to raise funds for convent renovation and connect with the community.

Finance Committee Report

- Budget over $4 million; projected surplus of $228 after detailed review of ~50–60 line items over three months.
- Highlights:
    - School enrollment projected at 415 students.
    - Contribution from non-school families expected to increase to $327,000.
    - Capital projects line ($69,000 last year) zeroed out to balance.
    - Thrift shop contribution increased by $90,000.
- Pastoral council approved the budget. Motion made First Andy M. Second Julie B.

Liaison Report: Stewardship Commission & Centennial Campaign

- Centennial-year capital campaign planning underway; engage a firm for a feasibility study over the summer, aiming to start in September 2026 and begin a silent phase by July 2027.
- Potential Projects:
    - Modernization of facilities: boilers, heating/cooling systems, classroom updates (paint, windows, technology, desks).
    - ADA and sprinkler requirements constrain expansion of the footprint.
    - Blue Gym renovation shelved due to high cost and limited classroom gain (six vs. desired 10–12).

Building and Grounds Projects

- Four major objectives for centennial fundraising:
    - New boiler.
    - Replacement of two rooftop AC units nearing end of life.
    - New electronic controls for zoned AC/heat.
    - Parking lot repaving (top priority).
- School Security:
    - Aging security system with equipment from restricted-source countries; bids underway for replacement; parishioner in security field to be contacted for assistance.

Campus Space Reconfiguration and Narthex Renovation

- Gym conversion (classrooms, music room, library, daycare) deemed cost-prohibitive (e.g., floor lowering at seven figures); shelved.

- Current direction: comprehensive classroom modernization (paint, windows, technology, desks) plus HVAC control and energy efficiency upgrades as a fundable project.

- Narthex Renovation:

    - Reconfigure bathrooms, usher's room, staircase to music room; possible removal of crying room.
    - Convert usher's room to a hospitality/common room usable for music classes; shared school/community use.
    - Beautify and modernize church entrance with opened walls and glass partitions.
    - Seating concern: potential loss of back pews during peak masses; overflow in activity centers with live projection and Eucharistic ministers proposed; trade-offs require analysis.
- Additional Ideas:

    - Five-a-side soccer cage ($100{,}000 - 150{,}000$): lukewarm reception; further input needed.
    - Modular, retractable stage in gym with storage and permanent lighting: promising for theater/community events; feasibility, safety, fire code, acoustics, labor plans needed.
- School Advisory Committee Input:

    - Priorities: classroom modernization; common/music space; parking lot improvements benefiting school and parish.
    - Need for dedicated space for music (Lindsay).
    - Consider endowing a key staff role (e.g., "Mary Ferguson" role) for long-term operational stability.

Faith Formation Update

- Transition: Heather departing; Deanna taking over; next-year religious education schedule set; sign-ups posted.
- Sacraments: First Communion and Confirmation complete (one possible First Communion exception).
- Children's Liturgy of the Word continues with two parent leaders.
- Youth Ministry: "Love Begins Here" and high school mission trips proceeding; "Ice Cream and Rosary" on May 8 well-received; year's outline prepared for Deanna.

Liturgical Commission Report

- Approximately 70 ministers; a few 8th-grade servers lost; plans for student cantors in summer.
- Encouragement to join as Eucharistic ministers and choir; notable "Ave Maria" performance by a cantor at Saturday mass.

Human Concerns Committee Update

- Mother's Day rose sale raised $1,247 for Wisconsin Right to Life (double last year).
- Blood drive on June 27 with two new organizers; 22 single red and 4 double red donation slots.
- Senior ministry concerns:
    - Heather's "Joy Group" ending; risk of losing seniors to more active parishes.
    - Accessibility limitations in gathering space and bathrooms.
    - Ideas like "adopt a grandparent" mentioned.
- Conclusion: Acknowledged gap in senior ministry; further planning needed.

Women at St. Jude

- Scholarship awards presented to 8th graders Ellie Schoenwald, Henry Gittins, and Lauren Koester.
- Group activity reduced until high school events resume.

St. Jude's Men's Group

- Quiet period; assisting at youth mass.
- Hosting a community cookout after the 5:00 PM mass on July 11th.

School Committee Report

- School full for upcoming year.
- Accreditation results pending and expected positive; SWOT to be revisited upon receipt.
- Discussion on student shorts policy; concern that shorts foster "summer mindset" affecting classroom management.

Sanctuary Renovation and Seating/Space Adjustments

- "Love One Another" campaign project: renovate the sanctuary.
    - Phase 1: move presider's chair to the right; relocate tabernacle to center; remove piano from current location.
    - Phase 2: move baptismal font to front of St. Joseph altar (removing two pews); create new ambry; install lighting above relocated font.
    - Smaller artwork (shorter piece) previously favored; realistic rendering from Inspired Artisans pending.
- Piano Relocation Discussion:
    - Proposed move to left side (St. Jude side) requiring removal of front two pews (~20 seats lost); add nicer, movable chairs as needed; acoustics under consideration.

    - Piano is high-quality, donated, and used broadly (school masses, cantor support); preference to keep available rather than store; pew removal more reversible than storing piano.
- Seating and Space Adjustments:
    - Prior crowding incidents traced to placement/sensitivities rather than capacity; nave space deemed adequate.
    - Children's choir placement consolidated to one side for support and reduced disruption.
- Combined Motion on Sanctuary Furnishings and Artwork:
    - Resolution bundled and approved to: move baptismal font per renderings; move piano near St. Jude; remove two front pews; move tabernacle and presider's chair; select smaller artwork.
    - Conclusion: Facilities changes approved.

St. Jude Fest and Golf Outing Support

- St. Jude Fest volunteer request: food area short-staffed (lead: Kat); bartender needed; SignUpGenius to be re-emailed; event clarified to Friday night, June 5, 2026.

Strategic Planning

- Agenda deferred due to time constraints.