

St Jude Pastoral Council – January 21, 2026 Approved

Attendees: Fr. Weber, Andy Schmitt, Greg Branson, Mickie Steldt, Andrew Meindl, Susan Ray, Susie Cabrera, Julie Barber, Tom Mullooly

Approval of November Meeting Minutes:

- Unanimous approval, with a typographical correction for the name of MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary.

Pastor's Report:

- We were unable to offer wine at the 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM Christmas Masses because of lack of sign-up for ministers to offer the chalice. We plan to offer the chalice at Easter Masses but need to spread the word for volunteers between now and then.
- In light of concerns raised at some recent Masses, the parish is evaluating emergency preparedness.
 - Engage Tosa FD, as they have volunteer obligations and could come in and provide suggestions and best practices.
 - Offer training on how to use AED machines for the ushers and try to have at least one AED certified usher at each mass.
 - Incorporate training as part of a larger celebration and show gratitude for all of our liturgical ministers, such as thank you dinner.
 - Provide guidance on when Fr. Weber would want the ushers to interrupt mass and directly engage with him regarding the emergency situation.
- Our Maintenance manager, Mark Dergin, is retiring on January 28. We are actively looking to fill the position.

Finance Report

- We are tracking very close to budget and the school enrollment is looking very good at this stage of the enrollment process.

Liaison Reports

- **Stewardship** – Father Weber, Peter Benz, and Tim Weiss met in December to strategize the next steps for the implementation of a Stewardship commission and Centennial planning committee. Most of the enthusiasm right now is around centennial planning. Next steps are to engage with parish members that have volunteered to take a leadership role in the planning process and assist them with building out sub-committees for the execution of various tasks related to the pending celebration.
- **Faith Formation** – No formal meeting, but Advent by Candlelight was successful, Monday night classes going well – in the second half, will have Family dinner in February. Children's Liturgy of the Word continues 1X monthly at 9 am mass. There are plans for a youth game night in the future.
- **Liturgical** – We are losing a younger cantor and will have changes to discuss later in the meeting regarding potential changes to the Sanctuary space.
- **Human Concerns** – We completed Fr. Gene's donations and had three SUV loads of Christmas gifts from the Giving Tree. A new member came to human concerns, Sarah Gingrass. She is very enthusiastic and could be a good fit for Stewardship. Food pantry was 70 bags and \$240. SVDP helped 15 families in Nov/Dec and 5 more since the start of the year and they are in a good spot financially. There will be a pack n play in the Narthex to collect supplies for the Woman's Center. Human Concerns wanted suggestions on how to increase participation in the annual blood drive. Human Concerns would like a new champion to coordinate with Versiti and to help create awareness. Suggestion to have a blood drive overlap with Donut Sunday, where you could go downstairs after 9 and 11 mass, give blood then grab food.
- **Women of St Jude** – Snowball Dance is Feb. 7.
- **Men of St Jude** – Casino Night is Jan. 23 and the Daryl Megal Memorial Pheasant Hunt is Feb. 6.
- **School Committee** – The recent security concerns was the primary point of discussion. Mary Ferguson reviews all of the security footage daily to ensure that no one is in the school at the start of the day. A student mass was suggested to encourage high school and college alumni to return to church. The path is open but there is still a bottleneck getting cars through pickup. Suggestion to have more children released through Stop 3 (Gym Entrance), so that cars could queue behind the school.
- **Donut Sunday** – Knights of Columbus in January and Building and Grounds in February. B&G will be providing QR codes and sign up sheets to access Purple Envelope donation opportunities.
- **Athletic Association** – Aaron Jerabek has stepped down as Athletic Director and has been replaced by Scott Raue. An idea proposed by Aaron Jerabek was to shift the AD

role to a committee that has 3 members that have staggered so that one person drops off each year. A commendation for the work of Aaron, Tony Colvin, and Scott Raue was acknowledged by Fr. Weber.

- **Teaching Parish** – Joshua successfully defended his doctoral thesis in November, 2025. Looking to 2026, he will be extremely busy with classes during the week, and he will be shadowing Fr. Weber when he can, while also participating in weekend masses. A request was made to try and place younger servers to participate in masses that Joshua is helping with.
- **Youth Council** – A meeting with the Youth Reps is scheduled for Jan. 25. Topics to discuss are: What does a High Schooler need/want to help grow in their Faith? Is there interest in a retreat through the parish?

Sanctuary Changes

- Father presented a draft of his proposed communication to the parish to describe the intention, scope, and timing of the proposed changes which include moving the Baptismal Font, moving the location of the presider's chair and tabernacle, and the repair and cleaning of the tester (the canopy of the current presider's chair). No proposed changes to the language in the document but there was a concern raised about limiting access to people with physical challenges by removing the pews near the font.