

Saint Jude Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Activity Center - 7:00 PM
Approved 10/22/2025

Attendees: Fr. Weber, Julie B., Susie C., Alvaro G.-V., Steven G., Tom M., Susan R., Andy S., Mickie S., Annie T., Tim W.

Absent: Peter B., Greg B., Andrew M.

Opening Prayer: Annie T.

Approval of Minutes: Julie B. made a motion to approve, Annie T. seconded. It was noted to correct the spelling of MacCanon Brown. No opposition.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Weber thanked everyone that participated in the installation mass. Father noted that Heather had received interest from a couple that offered to help in various capacities.

The June talk was well attended, and the next talk is scheduled for October 5th at 6:30PM. Sam Vosters will speak about Hope for the Poor and reflect on her work with the Kinship Community Center.

The St. Therese Pilgrimage group is organizing study meetings on October 1st and 4th in preparation for the pilgrimage. -- November 16th.

The parish has successfully replenished the funds borrowed against the LOA campaign for the playground and sound system and is now 'back in the black.' Approximately \$100,000 in pledges is still expected over the next two years.

Fr. Weber encouraged the council to personally deepen their Marian devotion and pray for respect of human life during the month of October. A positive way to deepen one's Marian devotion is through practices like the rosary, the Angelus prayer, or saying three Hail Mary's before bed.

Finance Report: With a \$3.8 million budget, the parish ended with a \$2,000 surplus, indicating strong financial management. The council will update its norms next month as required by the Archdiocese.

Liaison Reports (Discussion):

- The Stewardship Commission will hold a meeting to gather feedback for the upcoming centennial celebration.

- The Human Concerns committee is working to partner with an Aurora mobile unit for healthcare access and is exploring ways to recruit more tutors and volunteers.
- The Human Concerns committee will host Donut Sunday to raise awareness and recruit volunteers for St. Vincent de Paul.

The St. Vincent de Paul chapter is shrinking, now down to only two members from St. Jude and five from St. Therese, most of whom are older. It is difficult to recruit younger members as home visits are required during daytime working hours.

A significant discussion point was the need to reach potential volunteers who are active in the school but may not attend Mass regularly, as current advertising is limited to the bulletin and Mass announcements.

- Donut Sundays are scheduled for October and December, but a host is still needed for November 6th. There is a desire to better use these events to engage the parish community.
- It was suggested that Donut Sundays could be better leveraged to connect parishioners with ministry opportunities and leaders, such as with the music director, Mark K.
- Leadership for the Athletic Association is in transition after Aaron stepped down. A previously discussed safety measure for the gym floor covering has not yet been implemented. A concern was raised about the gym floor covering storage. Looking into blocking the area off to prevent injuries or damage.
- The Youth Ministry is actively seeking ideas to engage high schoolers, acknowledging the difficulty due to their busy schedules. The consensus is that peer-to-peer recruitment is the most effective strategy, and plans are still in the early stages of development.
- It is difficult to connect with high schoolers as they are often over-programmed and busy.
- The strategy should be to engage students right after eighth grade to foster a lasting connection to the parish.
- It's important to ask high schoolers directly what they would be interested in.

Heather was tasked with bringing a specific idea for targeting high schoolers back to the group for discussion.

Susie will talk to Julian and Susie will talk to Lucas to gather their thoughts and ideas.

- The council reviewed the schedule and responsibilities for the incoming seminarian in the teaching parish program.

The seminarian will attend the Sunday liturgy one weekend a month.

The seminarian will meet with the teaching parish group once or twice per semester.

Strategic Planning: The council agreed to adopt Father Weber's suggestion to review the strategic plan one section at a time during each meeting to allow for a more focused discussion. The council should focus on one of the five categories at each meeting.

Strategy Area #1: Worship, Faith Formation, and Spiritual Growth

Goal 1: Enhance the music ministry

This area is rated 'light green'. While adult choir participation is growing, youth involvement is lacking. A new plan to offer choir during the school day for fourth graders will be implemented to cultivate interest in the Sunday children's choir. An email will be sent out by the end of the week to announce a new choir opportunity for fourth graders during the school day, aiming to boost participation in the Sunday children's choir.

Goal 2: Provide learning and enrichment opportunities for parishioners to grow their faith and spirituality.

This area is rated 'green'. The group decided to promote existing retreat opportunities, like those on the Jesuit retreat calendar, by sharing them on the parish website. They emphasized that personal testimonials are more effective than impersonal lists and encouraged members to share their positive experiences. A new idea for a 'behind-the-scenes' church tour was also well received.

The current speaker series has been very successful, and it's time to plan for the next one. The Wednesday morning men's group is another successful example of a study club within the parish.

Goal 3: Activate the Amazing Parish process which provides coaching to the pastor and other parish administrative leadership team members.

This was an objective out forward by Fr. Mike. The council agreed to remain attentive to establishing coaching and to track progress on continuing formation and staff prayer. The goal should be to make progress and describe it, rather than setting an overly ambitious goal that cannot be fully achieved.

Decision: Gala Donation: The council will continue its tradition of donating to the gala. A member will collect individual contributions from the group to purchase an item from the event's wish list. The gala is a parish-wide event, and all members are encouraged to promote it.

Decision: Bereavement Breakfast: A subcommittee has been formed to organize the Bereavement Breakfast in November. The committee includes Andy S., Tim W., Susie C., and Julie B. The event will take place between the two Sunday masses, and the plan includes re-inviting families who may have missed last year's event.

Discussion: Move the Baptismal Font. The discussion centered on how to best communicate the planned relocation of the baptismal font, a change driven by a desire for a more permanent and visible fixture than the current 'plastic bowl'. The council acknowledged the move could be sensitive for some parishioners and that the initial push for the change came from Father Mike. The group agrees on the importance of moving the baptismal font but has not finalized the communication plan. The prevailing idea is to proceed with the move while being mindful of how it is presented to the congregation.

Relocating the Piano: No decision was made regarding the relocation of the piano. The discussion covered the pros and cons of moving it simultaneously with the font and its historical context, but the issue remains unresolved.

Closing Prayer: Annie T