



SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St. Lawrence Church Parish Council Meeting

January 22, 2026

Members present: Donna Lebert, Jack Schuster, Bob DeMarini, Karen Shea, Dawn Walzak
Others in attendance: Father Joe DeCosta, Al Karg, Karole Kreutter, Joe Lenart, Deacon John Balchus

The meeting opened at 7:12 pm with a welcome from Donna Lebert and a prayer from Father Joe. The October 23, 2025 minutes were formally approved with a correction that Father Joe was in attendance.

Ministry Committee Reports:

Liturgy:

Karole Kruetter created a new Parish survey that included a few ideas that culminated from the initial survey. The new survey was then discussed with the Liturgy committee and adjusted. If there is interest to grow our community, there will be a need for someone to organize the proposed groups. The plan is to distribute the updated survey during the weekend of Feb 8th. There will be a mail receptacle placed on the narthex for completed surveys, there will be pens and extra surveys.

Deacon John brought and discussed a blog he read - "The past success of your parish may be your biggest problem!" The synopsis was that so much has changed and we should not assume that things that worked before will work now to grow parish communities. He suggested that our parish should be welcoming and inviting. He questioned the Council on ideas. Maybe a change in different music that might entice younger parishioners?

Father Joe stated that the Diocese guidelines have stated that if there is a merged/yoked parish that the Triduum Masses (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) will be at one Parish only. Since Father Joe was at St. Lawrence last year the Masses will be at St. Peter this year unless otherwise stated. There was a discussion that it would be nice if our choir and organist would have the opportunity to participate during those Masses. A decision from Father Joe will be forthcoming. There also has been a change of the Deanery alignment and we have been merged into Middlesex County.

Father Joe also mentioned that Bishop Reidy is supposed to attend Mass and the KofC Polish dinner on January 24th.

The Christmas concert was on Dec 7 with a different format this year of singing carols.

Finance:

Father Joe stated that: we are currently in the red, the bankruptcy payments are complete, our liability insurance has increased to 25K annually and a Finance committee meeting will be forthcoming with the new members of Jim Clemente, Bob Rose, Ralph Esposito and Sue Browne.

Religious Education (CCD):

Confirmation was on Sunday 11/16 at 2 pm at St. Lawrence with a small reception after. The 2026 confirmation is scheduled for October 16 to be held at St. Peter.

TIA:

The second deposit check for the 2026 trip was mailed. Due to running in the red more often there was a suggestion to get an updated list of teens that will be attending the 2027 trip and to decide if St. Lawrence will only provide deposit monies for those attending from this Parish.

Healing Ministry:

It was stated that blood pressure checks have started again on the first weekend of each month and that rides for doctors appointments are occurring.

Hospitality:

This year's Christmas Fair profited \$8,414. Thanks to all that helped with this fund raiser. Lou H has updated the New Parishioner form that was given to the office. The volunteer form still needs to be updated. It was hoped to have a Mardi Gras gathering this year but no one offered to run the function. The next Rummage Sale is penciled in for April 18, 2026 and hopefully the Strawberry Festival will be on June 20th, if there are enough volunteers for these fund raisers.

Plant and Facilities:

The new church doors look wonderful. The driveway sealing and crack fill needs to be scheduled. Since the quotes are a year old they might need to be updated. There was another discussion to get a quote to have some of the trees on the property checked.

Communications:

The wireless not working in the church is still an issue. The hope is that the necessary equipment will be replaced on Jan 27th. Thanks to Bob V and Joe L for assisting with this issue.

Stewardship:

Since there have been no official meetings this will be removed from further discussions.

New Business:

- KofC Polish dinner is on Jan 24th after the 4 pm Mass.

Old Business:

- Lighting changes in the hall. The vendor will need to be contacted to determine how much it will cost to switch the row lighting back.
- Open volunteer positions are still an issue.
- Parish directory. Donna L continues to clean up our current registry.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm with a prayer by Fr. Joe. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on March 26, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Lebert