



SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St. Lawrence Church Parish Council Meeting

August 27, 2026

Members present: Donna Lebert, Bob DeMarini, Karen Shea, Jim Clemente, Lourdes Hosking, Dawn Walzak
Others in attendance: Father Joe De Costa, Al Karg, Jennifer Torello, Joe Lenart

The meeting opened at 7:02 pm with a welcome from Donna Lebert and a prayer from Father Joe. Jennifer Torello was welcomed and introduced as a potential member. The May 27, 2026 minutes needed two corrections and then were formally approved and sent for distribution.

Ministry Committee Reports:

Liturgy:

The fall retreat has been scheduled for 10/24 at St. Lawrence. Flyers are up and information is in the bulletin. There was a question last month on the scheduling of the Altar servers. Due to the lack of server availability, BobV has not been able to schedule them. Families of the servers communicate between themselves for coverage. Father Joe was reminded to provide a link on the website to explain the Pastor vs Parochial Vicar guidelines. Father Joe mentioned there is a meeting, at the diocese in September, to discuss the return of the distribution of the precious blood during Mass. If that occurs then we will need additional Eucharistic ministers scheduled for each Mass. There is a concern that there isn't enough coverage today and more will need to be trained. Jean Panciera will train any new individuals.

Karole Kreutter sent an email stating that the Liturgy committee met in July, the next meeting is scheduled for September. Focus will be on children's involvement in choir and some more involvement in mass and with regular class visits with Fr. Joe. Discussion to continue on how to improve liturgy in general including offering training for altar servers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers.

Finance:

Jim Clemente stated that the Finance committee met in August, the 2026/2027 budget discussion continues. They are scheduled to meet in September

Religious Education (CCD):

- 14 children attended Summer Bible camp. All went well. CCD classes will be scheduled to assist at Masses. Discussion has started to have a children's choir for this year's Christmas pageant. This year's Confirmation will be at St. Peter on 10/18 at 1:30. Class schedule this year: 9th grade starts on 9/13, if there are enough 3rd graders to form a class it will start on 9/19 and the remaining classes will begin on 9/14 from 7 - 8:15 pm.

TIA: email submission by Kirk Whiteman.

The TIA trip was 7/19 - 7/24 at Mary Help of Christians Academy, North Haledon, NJ. 17 campers attended. The trip went great. The 2027 CHWC dates are not available yet. Fr Joe stated that St. Peters TIA is questioning some of the financial numbers. He hopes to have it cleared up at the next STP financial meeting.

Healing Ministry: email submission by Alice Lucas

Blood pressure checks continue and great work is being done in Mary's Garden. She recommends parishioners stop by.

Hospitality:

The Strawberry festival was on 6/20 and made \$3695. Donna Lebert stated that she will not Chair the fair next year so someone new will need to step up. The next rummage sale is scheduled for 10/10. Sue Browne and Michelle Knockwood will coordinate. The Columbiettes have offered to provide "coffee and" a weekend in October and then May next year. Jen T suggested that families should volunteer a Mass to help so that Al and Mary Karg aren't always handling this.

Plant and Facilities:

The driveway sealing is complete, costing \$11,615. It was noted that some grass has started to regrow through some of the cracks. The vendor has been notified.

A new microphone/headset has been purchased and installed for Father Joe. (The one the vendor installed was not the same as quoted, but was cheaper) He will use it and it will be determined if a second should be purchased for Father Marty. The vendor stated that the only way to stop the feedback would be to shut off the podium microphone when not in use. Donna reminded Father Joe to arrange for Forbearance to walk the church property to determine if there is any mandatory tree work needed. Painting of the Men's Church restroom should happen soon. Joe L said he is looking to acquire a new Jesus statue for the Sacred heart of Jesus garden. The STL mailbox needs to be replaced. Eileen will purchase a new one and Jen Torello offered her husband's (Scott) help with the installation.

Communications:

Joe Lenart is planning to set up an interactive monitor in the Narthex by November.

Suggestions:

NA

New Business:

NA

Old Business:

- Open volunteer positions are still an issue. Donna L to get a list to Father Joe.
- Parish directory. Jen T said she and her mom, Betty C could assist. Donna will give Jen the vendor number to attain information about their services.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm with a prayer by Fr. Joe. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on October 22nd, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Lebert, Parish Council Chairperson