

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: November 19, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

Notes By: Sarah Navis

Attendees: Father Justin Lopina, Joe Herro, Sandy Schmitt, Mike Smrz, Tom Zimmerman, Suzanne Silman, Rachel Blackwood, Jeremy Blackwood, Jennifer Mendoza, Larry Barbian, Carol Polivka, Duane Filtz, and Jill Pitterle.

Excused: Kevin Scott, Megan Harney, Paul Petrides, Kelly Ciriacks, Alanna Wilgus

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. with an opening prayer by Joe.

The agenda was approved.

Committee Reports:

Prayer and Worship: The theme for the 2025 Advent season is “The Path of Light.” Fr. Justin will announce plans for the parish activity during an upcoming weekend Mass. Sunday, December 21 will be the hanging of the green. The list of all the December activities will be published in the newsletter and online.

Stewardship and Communications: The preparation for St. Joseph Day celebration continues. The mass will be Thursday, March 19th, 2025, at 6pm, with a meal of fellowship to follow. In response to the Time and Talent talk given at the weekend mass, 25 people have come forward to join a ministry. For the Advent season, “Welcome to St. Joseph” cards will be in the pews.

Buildings and Grounds: Carol expressed a big “Thank You” to Matt, Jesse and all the members of the B&G who have assisted with building repairs related to the flood and other improvement projects. The committee is preparing to start on the annual update to the 5-year plan. They continue to study the drainage issues and how to correct them. Flood remodel continues, over Thanksgiving the teachers’ lounge abatement will take place and the teachers’ lounge polished concrete floor will be done over Christmas break. Building and Grounds will have their minutes posted under the “Resources” tab on the parish website.

Home and School: Cookie House preparation continues. Rachel reported a lot of pre-orders have already come in. Home and School will have representatives in Church the weekend of November 29-30 after each mass to take pre-orders. Rachel advised that most of the advertising materials for the Cookie house was damaged in the flood earlier

this year. They are working on replacing what they can. Cookie House is Saturday, December 6th from 9am-12pm.

School Committee: Power School report cards went out for the first time. No issues reported. They continue to review all the information received at the marketing meeting held by the archdiocese.

Parish Life: Sheepshead Night in October and November has good attendance. There is still interest in making Sheepshead Night a regular monthly gathering or even a Sheepshead club. The Soup & Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Saturday, January 24th.

Faith Formation: Larry Barbian reported the speaker series held in October had low attendance. They discussed how to boost attendance; one suggestion is to move the speakers to after the 10:30 mass on Sunday. Father Justin will be giving a Lenten talk on Sunday, November 30th after the 10:30 mass. There will be donuts in the Narthex after mass and then Father's talk. Faith Formation is moving their monthly meeting to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Continuing Business

- A. Additional Disability Parking spaces. The signage for the Center Street transition has arrived. The communication about the change will be posted in the bulletin and Father will make mention during mass. All the Center Street circle parking spaces will be Disability Parking spaces during the weekend 4pm, 8am and 10:30 am mass times.
- B. Father Holzhauer's gravestone update – the quote for the repair was presented to the Finance council. It is suggested that this update be tied to an anniversary of the parish or some other significant moment to commemorate. The 2027 St. Joseph day celebration was a suggested target. This is a continued topic for the Pastoral council to resolve. Building and Grounds will work on getting the details on the headstone fix.
- C. Mission Statement update – The discussion continued from the October Pastoral council meeting. Duane reviewed the email feedback on the mission and vision statements presented in October that was provided by some of the Pastoral Council members. There was a lot of good information shared, and Duane recommends that a subcommittee be formed to work more closely on creating the mission and vision statement. This topic will carry over to January.
- D. St. Joseph Day celebration – Pastoral council reviewed the St. Joseph day outline to confirm everything is accounted for and all the committees are comfortable with their assignments for the celebration on Thursday, March 19th, 2026. It was asked if the 33-day Consecration to St. Joseph will be held again. Duane will follow up

with Dennis Sylva to see if the 33-day Consecration to St. Joseph or some other speaker would be appropriate. Joe Herro will follow up with the committee heads for Human Concerns, SVDP and the Athletic Association to review the tasks and confirm they are set. Father will take care of extending an invitation to the Bishop's office for this celebration.

New Business

- A. Pastoral Council meeting time changes discussed for 2026. The changes are as follows:

February 18th meeting pushed to February 25th. February 18th is Ash Wednesday

March 18th meeting moved up to March 11 to review any last-minute items for the St. Joseph day celebration

Proposed but not final, the April 15th meeting may be pushed to April 22nd.

B. Miscellaneous

- A. Next Pastoral Council meeting will be January 21, 2026
- B. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with a closing prayer.