

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: January 21, 2026 – 6:30 pm

Notes By: Sarah Navis

Attendees: Father Justin Lopina, Joe Herro, Alanna Wilgus, Jennifer Mendoza, Jill Pitterle, Kevin Scott, Megan Harney, Joe McCool, Mike Smrz, Tom Zimmerman, Sandy Schmitt, Suzzanne Silman, Rachel Blackwood, Jeremy Blackwood, Bryanna VanVreede, Larry Barbian, Carol Polivka, Duane Filtz and Larry Barbian.

Excused: Paul Petrides, Kelly Ciriacks

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

The agenda was approved. Joe asked that the Committee updates be brief so we have time for our continuing business and new business topics.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Home and School:** Catholic Schools Week preparation is done. Upcoming events include the Sweetheart dance in February and the Mother/Son bowling in March.

**Parish Life:** Mike Smrz reported Soup and Chili Cookoff is Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The next Sheepshead night is Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Stewardship:** New member cards are coming in. 65 new members recorded in 2025. Stewardships first meeting of 2026 is upcoming.

**Building and Grounds:** Carol Polivka reported the flood damage repair is almost complete, the last remaining job is the reinforcement of the upper kitchen cabinets. Recent roof leaks were discovered and repaired quickly. The repairs resolved the issue.

**Faith Formation:** Larry Barbian reported there will be a speaker on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, more details to follow in the bulletin.

**Prayer and Worship:** Suzzanne shared with us a copy of the Lenten Calendar of events. Events start with the Ash Wednesday Masses at 8.15am, 12:10 pm and 7:00pm. The theme for Lent 2026 is Ashes to Glory.

### **Continuing Business:**

- A. Handicapped parking spaces – update. Friendly reminder to please park only in the designated accessible parking space, not the striped area. The striped area illustrated below is additional area for those with accessibility issues to maneuver more easily and to access their vehicle. It is marked with stripes to differentiate it from a regular parking space. **Please do not park in this space, it is for access only.**

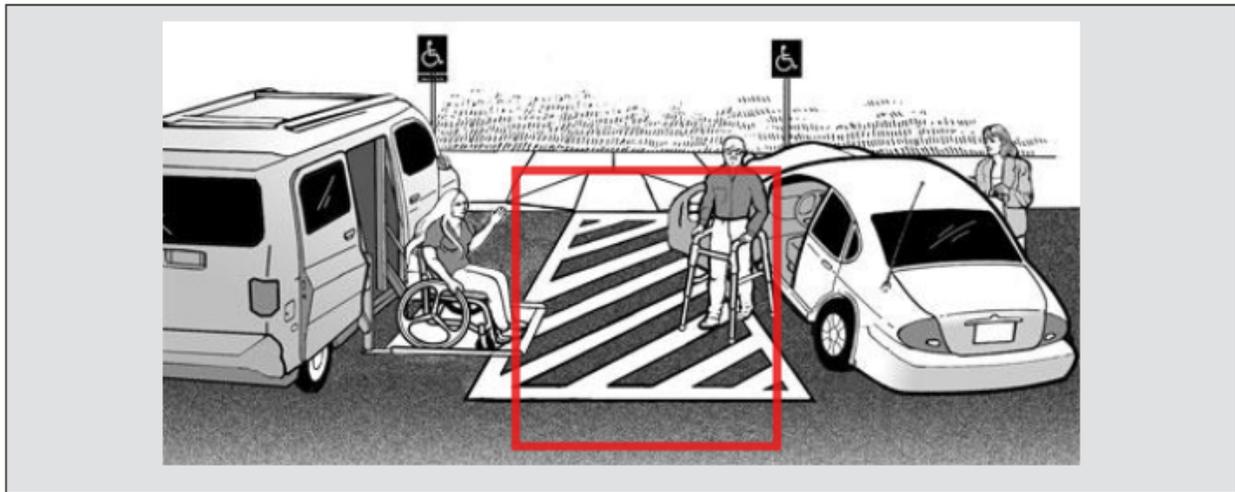


Photo taken from <https://www.ada.gov/resources/restriping-parking-spaces>.

- B. Fr. Holzhauser's gravestone – Building and grounds has collected some bids on the stone, the foundation costs and removal of the old stone. The cemetery cannot work on anything in the winter. The Pastoral Council has asked that this topic be tabled until more concrete details are available regarding actual prices. We will discuss fundraising ideas later.
- C. Mission Statement – Stewardship will take up this topic again in their upcoming meeting.
- D. St. Joseph Day Celebrations Update: St. Joseph Day celebration schedule was reviewed by all chairs and Pastoral Council members. All tasks are accounted for and agreed upon. There will be Donut Sunday on March 15th. We will celebrate Mass at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 19th. Dinner to follow. More information for parishioners will be forthcoming.

**New Business:**

- A. Financial Information in the bulletin – The church financial information will be going into the bulleting the weekend of January 31, 2026 – February, 1, 2026. A basic

explanation of the values will be included with this first installment, and subsequent listings will be more basic.

- B. Financial Peace University program – Details are being formed for this summer and more will be communicated later in spring. Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University is the nine-week class that teaches you step by step how to pay off debt fast and build wealth for your future.
- C. HR changes to the parish and school staff – There are a number of open positions that have active interviews being conducted. Father wants to ensure the right candidates are found.
- D. Revitalization of the Religious Education program – Father and the Faith Formation committee will be looking at how to revitalize the Religious Education program at St. Joseph.

### **Miscellaneous**

- A. The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:30 pm.
- B. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with a Closing Prayer by Jill Pitterle.