

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: May 20, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Notes By: Sarah Navis

Attendees: Father Justin Lopina, Joe Herro, Alanna Wilgus, Jill Pitterle, Megan Harney, Larry Barbian, Rachel Blackwood, Carol Polivka, Jennifer Mendoza, Kevin Scott, Sandy Schmitt, Paul Petrides and Bryanna VanVreede

Excused: Mike Smrz, Jennifer Mendoza and Joel McCool.

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

The agenda was approved.

Committee Reports:

Home and School: Rachel Blackwood reported they are wrapping up for the end of the school year. High Interest Day was well received, the teachers felt it was the best one yet.

School Committee: They are focusing on the middle school reading program. Also interviewing for the middle school social studies teacher.

Athletics: Paul Petrides reported the last home track meet is being held this weekend. They have had 4 new members of the Athletic Board join including a new treasurer and secretary. The gym inspection is needed and will be scheduled soon. The gym will be cleaned, including the floor and bleachers, after the rummage sale is over. Gym floor sealing will not take place this year, they are taking a 1-year break.

Finance: Sandy Schmitt noted they are currently working on the budget. It is due to the Archdiocese on June 1st.

Faith Formation: Larry Barbian let us know their group met with the new Director of Religious Education, Alex. Father will have a feature write up introducing him the weekend of May 30/31.

Stewardship: Duane reviewed the Stewardship Committee's idea for Committee and Ministry Awareness. The expectation is that the St. Joseph ministry hosting that month will be featured in the bulletin with a small write up, they staff the Welcome Center so parish members can meet representatives from that committee and lastly that committee will host Donut Sunday. We will begin in June. The rummage sale is coming up, please sign up to help wherever you can.

Buildings and Grounds: Carol Polivka reported the following for Building and Grounds:

- We are waiting to hear from the roof company as to start date for the roof project. The hope is to have it completed before school starts. As Father Justin indicated, we will need to be flexible if work extends into the school year.
- The committee is continuing to work with various groups within the parish to identify what types of tables and chairs will best meet the parish needs. B&G will provide a final recommendation at our upcoming meeting. The goal is to have them ordered in early June.
- We continue to investigate drainage issues in the courtyard causing leaks into the play closet, kitchen and boiler room. We are looking at both short and long-term solutions.
- The “Adopt a Garden Bed” program is starting up. The front and side gardens are being treated with weed killer to stop several invasive weeds that we haven’t been able to get rid of. Those gardens will be treated a second time in early June to improve the likelihood of eradication. Weeding will commence in mid-June to allow pesticides to do its work. A parish member has generously donated several young trees and shrubs to help spruce things up. We will continue to add additional perennials to a variety of areas with goal being to have fuller plantings and reduce the amount of mulch needed.
- Paint was generously donated for painting the school lockers. Working on setting up a time to get them painted.

Continuing Business

- A. Calvary Cemetery grave marker replacement:** Building and Ground is awaiting more quote information.

New Business

- A. Pastoral Council elections:** Alana handed out the 2026-2027 meeting dates. Father has identified the next area he would like to work on for his third year in office. “Standardizing the Parish policies”. This is to help ensure there are systems in place for a variety of processes. He asked Pastoral Council members to be active in helping to identify areas for standardization. For the June meeting he would like each member to bring one or more areas that should be reviewed.
- B. Finance Peace University Program:** Father updated Pastoral Council with the number of participants signed up so far. There are 30 people who signed up and there are 3 more weekends before the program starts. Father will be sending out an email invitation to a variety of individuals and groups to sign up for this great opportunity. Childcare is set up and available for the Tuesday night meetings.
- C. Special Needs offerings:** Father is working on a program designed to address the spiritual needs of the special needs members of our Parish. The Archdiocese offers kits for sacramental preparation (1st communion, Confirmation, Reconciliation) specific

to individuals who are on the spectrum/autistic and/or are non-verbal. Father intends this program to be separate from our current Religious Education program. It focuses on the unique needs of this part of our community.

Closing

- A. Next Pastoral Council meeting will be June 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. There is no July 2026 meeting.
- B. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm, closing prayer by Joe Herro.