

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: October 21, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Notes By: Sarah Navis

Attendees: Father Justin Lopina, Alanna Wilgus, Sarah Navis, Carol Polivka, Jennifer Mendoza, Arleen Lemmon, Tom Zimmerman, Rachel Blackwood, Jeremy Blackwood, Larry Barbian, Alex Burks, Mark Frederick, Cathy Humphries, Jill Pitterle, Bryanna VanVreede, Duane Filtz, Mike Smrz, Kevin Scott, and Megan Harney

Excused: Joel McCool

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

The September minutes were approved with the added correction needed to New Business B, should read “Sarah Navis volunteered to be the liaison for School Committee. No member chosen for Pastoral Council vice chair.” October agenda was approved.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Carol Polivka reported the source of the leak in the St. Joseph room has been repaired. The problem was resolved when working on the RTU on the parish rooftop. The large garage roof repair will take place before mid-November. The schedule was delayed due to rainy weather in early fall.

Abatement has been completed on boiler one and repair to the door seal will be taking place soon. We are looking at options for repairing the stair covering for the gym stairs and the entry to the middle school. The snow removal contract for the upcoming winter is being finalized. New RAP covering will be spread around the garden beds surrounding the Parish Center.

Faith Formation: Larry Barbian reported they discussed a family focused catechism program for St. Joseph. Alex Burks mentioned this is a future program he is looking into. They continue to move forward with the SPRED program. This program is open to all ages. There will be a SPRED mass held November 22nd at 10:30 am, this mass invites all SPRED participants from around the area to join us for mass at St. Joseph's. The need for more catechists is still present, consider becoming one. They also discussed ways to get more family involvement with events at St. Joseph. Being able to offer childcare during these events so more adults can be involved was one suggestion.

Stewardship and Communications: The fall appeal was mailed out last week to ~880 households in our parish. If you did not receive this packet, please contact the office. The appeal will be a multi-week approach with each week focusing on a specific aspect of our community. One important change is that anyone submitting church dues electronically will need to fill out a new ACH form (included in the packet) since we switched banks a few weeks back. Duane also thanked Alanna for helping out on Donut Sunday.

Home and School Association: Rachel Blackwood reported they had 11 trunks for the Trunk or Treat. Around 100 kids enjoyed the festivities. Cookie house prep has begun. They are especially grateful for the donated freezer which is for the Cookie House exclusively.

School Committee: Jeremy Blackwood and Bryanna VanVreede update the council on the activities of the School Committee. The Strategic Plan survey is completed, and they are now holding focus groups. The feedback has been positive. One last focus group is being held Wednesday, October 28th from 9:15-10:30 am. Policy reviews on different aspects of communication to parents and the parish are being done now.

Athletics: Alanna presented the Athletics notes since Paul Petrides was unable to attend. They are feeling the effects of lower enrollment, they only have two basketball teams. They will be sending several students to other schools to compete with their teams. The golf outing was successful, but enrollment was down. Competition with the Bear-Packer game had attendance lower than in past years. We will be investigating ways to market our various events to try to engage a wider audience. The revised Athletics Handbook is almost complete. Congratulations to our 8th grade girls' volleyball team, they are going to the Seton Tournament!

Finance: Tom Zimmerman commented we are three months into the fiscal year. So far, the contributions have been lower. Expenses have been lower as well but we are still ~80K behind. The school was able to secure a grant for textbooks to help with that expense.

Parish Life: The Biergarten was reviewed in the last meeting; we have notes on what worked and what can be improved for next year. Soup and Chili cookoff is scheduled for January 30th. We need more chefs, please sign up by November 26th. For sign up or questions, contact Erin Murphy epitterle@yahoo.com. Bingo night is Saturday, November 21st. We are looking for prize donations for bingo, small gifts, gift cards, anything for kids and adults. Please drop off your donation in the parish office.

Continuing Business

A. Council vice chair is still open; no decision was made regarding Pastoral council vice chair.

New Business

- A. "How we spend money" procedure: Father shared his first draft of this procedure. The draft was discussed and feedback given.
- B. Should we reintroduce the Emmaus 90 Program? Do we have a procedure for suggesting additional programs? Contact Alex Burks with any questions or suggestions about religious programming you would like to see here at St. Joseph.

Pastor's Updates

- A. New Music Director hired

- B. Hiring for a new maintenance director is active. The position can be found on the Archdiocese of Milwaukee website: archmil.org/careers.

Review of Action items – No action items.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Pastoral Council meeting will be November 18th, 2026
- B. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with a Closing Prayer.