

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: September 17, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

Notes By: Sarah Navis

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

Excused: Duane Filtz and Paul Petrides

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

The agenda was approved.

St. Joe's August storm damage status update: Carol Polivka reported that the majority of insurance related flood repairs are targeted for October 2nd and 3rd. Insurance will cover repairs of the damaged items after the \$1000 deductible is met. The teachers' lounge is tentatively scheduled for repair the week of Thanksgiving. New pumps that help provide heat to the church will be replaced within the next few weeks. They will be elevated to protect from water that may accumulate on the boiler room floor. A new ceiling will be installed in the Art room. Clean, intact tiles from the old ceiling will be used in other classrooms where 2-6 tiles were damaged. This is very helpful as that size tile is no longer used, making replacement tiles difficult to find for those spaces.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Tom Zimmerman and Sandy Schmitt reported the work continues, no updates at this time.

Stewardship and Communication: Suzzanne Silman stated the work on the church environment continues. She shared some beautiful drawings that exhibit the 3 areas of activity. Under each sign the different groups and committees will be displayed. They will be displayed in the Center Street entrance. The Stewardship group is working on a mobile welcome station to be more engaging to those who are interested in joining a ministry or joining the Parish.

Buildings and Grounds: Carol Polivka reported that B&G continues to discuss adding additional disabled parking spots. Upon further review, concerns were raised regarding potential issues that could arise by painting permanent disability parking designations on the spaces in the circle drive. B&G concurred that it may create complicated situations

on weekdays, especially during Mass and funerals. It was reported that several churches post signage indicating that specific spaces are designated for disability parking only during weekend Masses. The Pastoral Council discussed and agreed that this is an alternative solution. Additionally, two spaces can also be added along the building in the west (upper) parking lot to accommodate additional needs.

Concerns were also raised that people do not follow parking regulations. For example, people are parking in disability zones designated for wheelchair accessibility or are blocking emergency vehicle access to the church. We are considering additional signage and parish education regarding these issues.

At their next meeting, B&G will be joined by Wauwatosa Police Chief and parish member Jim MacGillis to discuss potential security/safety issues. We will be focusing on both potential physical changes along with procedural issues. Building and Grounds would like to remind all, for safety purposes, to keep building doors shut around the property. Please do not prop open the doors. This is to avoid giving unauthorized personnel access to Church or School. If needed, access codes can be provided for events on an as-needed basis. Please contact the Parish Office for assistance.

Home and School: Rachel Blackwood updated us on the following from Home and School: the feedback on the Biergarten was positive overall. The planning group will meet to recap and get the final profits. The next event is "Trunk or Treat", it will be held on October 18th in St. Joseph west parking lot. Currently it is only open to school families, but the committee is looking into opening it to Parish families. Cookie House discussions are also underway.

School: Jeremy Blackwood reported for the School Parent night went well. He welcomes all school parents and others interested in attending school committee meetings; they are open to all. Fr. Justin is sending a monthly newsletter to the school families with updates on school projects and issues to ensure better communication throughout the year.

Parish Life: Mike Smrz reported on the September meeting. Bingo Planning is under way for Saturday November 1st Bingo night. Fr. Justin will be calling Bingo. The Soup & Chili Cook Off is planned for Saturday, January 24th, 2025, following the 4pm Mass. If you are interested in competing, please reach out to the Parish Life committee or contact the office to sign up.

Faith Formation: Larry Barbian reported the "Who are we called to be?" speaker series is starting in October. See the bulletin for future dates.

Continuing Business

- A. Additional Disability Parking spaces.** Pastoral Council took up the discussion and agreed with their findings and accepted their proposal to add 2 additional permanent disability parking spaces in the west side parking lot. It was agreed that signage to designate the Center Street circle drive with temporary disability parking only for

weekend Mass will be instituted. All were in favor; none opposed or abstained. Building and Grounds will work with the communications committee to have information prepared for all regarding this change.

B. New Business

- A. Father Justin –Father Justin expressed his thanks to all for the work done and participation in his Installation mass. He said Archbishop Grob enjoyed his visit with us.
- B. Prayer group: An inquiry to form a prayer group was proposed in response to the recent request to pray for America put forth by the President. Parish council discussed this inquiry and discerned that that St. Joseph does have a Patriotic Rosary prayed on Tuesday's at 7:30 a.m. and that we are reminded regularly at Mass to pray for our elected officials. So, Parish Council agreed that, at this time, there is no need to form a specific group.
- C. **Action Items:** Building and Grounds will work with the Communications committee to have information prepared for the new disabled parking updates.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Pastoral Council meeting will be October 15, 2024
- B. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with a Closing Prayer.