

St. John the Baptist & St. Mary
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 5:30 pm

Present: Fr Matt Settle, Jennifer Heenan (Chair SJ), Joe Fahley (Chair SM), Ann Hoernke (Trustee SM), Trina Batley (SM), Cora Peirce (SM), Carol Van Marter (SM), Sally Wolbert (SJ),

Excused: Joe Lukasik (SM), Austin Rose (SM)

Non-Voting Members Present: Steve Siegel (Business Manager), Barb Stinski (SJ), Mark Wolbert (SJ)

The meeting began at 5:30 pm with a prayer from Fr Matt and then Steve reading our mission and vision statements.

Old Business:

The March 3rd informational meeting on the Dynamic Welcoming Program was a huge success. Over 60 parishioners attended along with most of the Pastoral Council members from both parishes. Cora did a great job with planning and running the meeting - lots of positive feedback. Cora has initiated some steps to continue the process of creating a welcoming culture in our parishes. Anna Ransom is contacting leaders of various parish ministries to create an overview description of their ministry and provide information on how to get involved with that ministry. The council reviewed the Worship Committee section of the parish organizational charts to help supply leader names to Anna. Other sections of the organizational chart will be reviewed in the future. Jessica Boham is reviewing the parish database to update contact information.

The Council reviewed the Welcome envelopes that are available in the pews. It was decided that no changes were needed. Dcn Don initiates contact with the people who completed envelopes. It was decided that we need to create a flowchart showing the next steps to help potential new parishioners and even current parishioners to make connections to ministries of the parish that interest them. Cora will work with Dcn Don to create a workflow map.

The online registration form needs to be updated/edited to eliminate the request for financial commitment. That request would be better addressed in a follow-up meeting with the new parishioners. Steve will look into that.

In order to keep the positive energy that was present at the March 3rd informational meeting, participants will be reminded at Mass, on our social media connections, and in the bulletin to spread the welcoming culture by smiling and greeting new and familiar faces at Mass and inviting others to join in our ministries and social events.

New Business:

Chris Groeschel will lead a meeting for the CERT team on April 23 at 6 pm.

Jennifer Heenan is organizing the St John the Baptist Feast Day celebration which will take place the weekend after the feast day - June 27 & 28. There will be cookies, juice, and coffee

following the 4 pm Mass, and donuts, juice, and coffee after the 9 am Mass. St John the Baptist prayer cards will also be available to distribute.

Fr Matt shared that he would like to modify the week day Mass schedule this summer. He wants to make his workload more efficient so he doesn't get burned out. Discussion ensued on weekend Mass changes too because several parishioners have asked for an earlier morning Mass. The diocesan policy is for priests to only have 4 Masses per weekend, so we cannot add another Mass.

The Council also discussed the use of incense at the St Mary Masses. Several parishioners have complained of the heavy smoke hampering their breathing. Father did make one change. They are no longer processing down the aisle with the incense with the exception of Easter. Father will also talk to the altar servers to ease back on swinging the thurible to reduce the amount of smoke.

Action required for next meeting:

Cora will contact Dcn Don to work on a workflow map.

Steve will look into rewording the online registration form.

Council members should review the organizational chart and consider people to help fill in the missing leader roles.

Jennifer is going to update the Stewardship of Service Opportunities brochure so that the Council can review it at the May meeting.

Father Matt and Steve will write an announcement encouraging the spread of the "welcoming culture."

All council members will help spread the culture by setting an example of being welcoming at Mass and all parish events.

Adjournment: Fr Matt closed the meeting at 7:20 with a prayer. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hoernke