

**Blessed Trinity/St. John Evangelist
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2026 7:00 PM Blessed Trinity Church Hall**

Council Members Present: Scott Birenbaum, Paul Garni, Terry Hartman, Nancy Mathieu, Mary Jo Schultz, Jim O’Neill, Terry Rotter, Sarah Schueffner, Donna Stieghorst and Bridgitt Zielke

Parish Staff Present: Fr. Michael Lawinger and Justin Spaeth

Excused Absence: Al Mayer, Rick Michaletz and Siena M.

Call to Order: Sarah Schueffner

Approval of Agenda:

Two additions were added to the agenda, St. Ignatius visit report and a staffing report. Jim O’Neill moved to approve the agenda with the additions. Paul Garni seconded it.

Approval of Minutes – Joint PC April 21, 2026 Meeting

Nancy Mathieu moved to approve the minutes. Bridgitt Zielke seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

Prayer Instruction: Father Michael led the Rosary.

Old Business:

- Faith & Food Social – A reminder that the Pastoral Council will be hosting the Faith & Food Social on Sunday, June 7, at Blessed Trinity. Thank you to all who offered to help at the event and/or bring a snack mix.
- Youth and Adult PC, Trustee Nominations – The information for a trustee for Blessed Trinity was listed in last weekend’s bulletin. The Pastoral Council nominations will be coming soon. Fr. Michael would like someone from the Archdiocese to speak during an informational meeting for those people who are nominated. After that, Fr. Michael will lead a discernment meeting, and the new PC members should be set for the August PC meeting.
- Shared Service agreement - Father Michael noted that each year both parishes sign a Shared Service Agreement to divide the cost of running the two parishes. He worked with the Finance Councils to determine an equitable split based on the parishioner population, hours worked, etc. For many of the shared staffing arrangements, a 60(BT)/40(SJE) split was determined to be equitable. This will be reflected in the upcoming year’s budget.
- Parish Picnic, Sunday, August 16 – The committee has started to make arrangements for the picnic. It will be held at Rochester Park and will start after the 10:30 AM Mass. Food trucks will be on site, as well as BINGO, kickball, and the Balloon Lady. Other details are still being planned.
- Religious Education/CGS update - Father Michael and Justin Spaeth created a short video explaining the new format for religious education. They explained that there will be a two-week summer program held in June and then twenty-four other events offered for individuals and families to attend throughout the year on Wednesday nights. Dinner and education will be offered on these nights. Each week will focus on a different topic. This video was emailed to all parishioners. They have received some questions and

feedback regarding the information shared through the video. Regarding CGS, the year has been going well. They are looking to add a Level 2 atrium in the coming year or so. By adding this next level, the CGS program would be appropriate for students from 3 years old up to second grade. There are a few additional adults interested in being trained as teachers. Fr. Michael would like to share some parent and student testimonials of current families. There are many positive results from this program, and most children will be returning next year.

- St. Ignatius visit – Nancy Mathieu visited St. Ignatius Catholic School in Kaukauna a few weeks ago. She noted that it was a positive, happy place. The students were engaged and all lessons were focused on how they related to God. The students attend Mass Tuesdays – Fridays. On Mondays they have adoration.

New Business:

- State of the Parish Address – Saturday, June 6 – Fr. Michael will be sharing information after the 4:00PM Mass. He intends to share information each quarter relevant to what is happening at the time. At this first meeting, he plans to share information on the parish offices moving to one location, possible high school in the area, staffing information, and financial information. Being transparent in the happenings of the church is the objective for these meetings.
- Staffing report – Fr. Michael removed the Business Manager position. This is a position that is found in many parishes, and Fr. Michael decided to add someone to fill this role. After working with this new structure for a while, Fr. Michael found that he wanted to be part of the management of the parishes rather than having the Business Manager do those things. Fr. Michael appreciated the work that was put into that position even if it was for a short time.

Pastor's Report:

- Fr. Michael shared that the diocese told him that we can explore opening a Catholic high school in the area. This is exciting news! Fr. Michael will be looking for families with middle school aged children that may be interested in being in the first class to start in the new high school. There will be a lot of work to get this going, but many are motivated to see this happen.
- Eucharistic procession will be taking place on Sunday, June 7. It will start after the 8:30 AM Mass at SJE and will proceed to BT. An email went out to all parishioners to let them know about the procession and to ask for volunteers to help with the event.
- On Wednesday, June 3 at 5:30 PM Fr. Michael will lead a discussion on Pope Leo's Encyclical Letter. Pope Leo addressed many topics in this document.
- A question was asked as to why the rosary was not prayed more during the month of May. Fr. Michael said that it was an oversight. The rosary was prayed before all daily Masses but was not prayed at weekend Masses.

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda

- St. Vincent de Paul

Closing Prayer – Father Michael