

Blessed Trinity Parish / St. John Evangelist Parish
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2025 6:30 PM Blessed Trinity Church Hall

Blessed Trinity Council Members Present: Sarah Schueffner, Jim Klich, Sam Steckbauer, Mary Jo Schultz, Tim Woodworth, Mason Klahn, Terry Rotter, Scott Birenbaum, Al Mayer, Natalie Kohlhagen, Deb Hasler and Jim O'Neill

St. John Evangelist Council Members Present: Bridgitt Zielke, Rich Tauferner, Ken Udovich, Rick Michaletz and Nick Cinquepalmi

Parish Staff Present: Fr. Michael Lawinger and Julia Rodemeier

Call to Order: Tim Woodworth

Approval of Agenda:

Rich Tauferner moved to approve the agenda. Rick Michaletz seconded it. Agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2025

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the minutes. Rich Tauferner seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

Old Business:

- Joint Parish Picnic – Deb Hasler
A group comprised of parishioners from both parishes met to start making plans for a joint parish picnic. The picnic will be August 10 at Rochester Park from 11:30AM – 3:00PM. The group is still working out details but the picnic will include a kickball game and a visit from the Balloon Lady.
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Fr. Michael
Plans are moving along for the start of the program. The program will be ready for the beginning of next school year. The program will be held at the former school building on the Blessed Trinity campus. Catechists will be attending a summer training. Funding has been acquired for the program. A group will be going to visit a location where the program is currently running. 13 kids are committed to attending the program in the fall and it is hopeful that there will be more that sign up after more advertising is distributed. More people are still needed to make some items for the program.
- Totus Tuus
The program runs from July 21 – 25. Planning is underway and a sign up has been shared. More adult volunteers are needed.
- Discernment
Changes for members on both Pastoral Councils will be coming due to terms ending. BT has steps in place for nominations and discernment. SJE would like some guidance in order to get new members to replace outgoing members. There was talk that the two parishes could possibly run the nominations and discernment in conjunction with each other. This will be explored by the SJE Pastoral Council.
- Rectory Improvement Update – Fr. Michael
There are plans set for refinishing the flooring, installing central air, and repainting the cabinets. All of the renovations should be done by midsummer.

New Business:

- Holy Week Recap – Fr. Michael

Everyone felt Holy Week went smoothly. There were wonderful Masses and services with good attendance. There were positive reactions to the type of incense that was used.

- May Rosary – Jim O'Neill

During the month of May, we will honor Mary by praying the rosary every day. It will be prayed 30 minutes prior to all weekend Masses as well as every weekday. Committees are encouraged to add a few minutes to their meeting this month to pray the rosary. All are encouraged to consider leading the rosary. A sign-up genius has been created to schedule leaders for the prayer. Rosary guides will be available at both churches to help lead you in the prayer.

- Religious Education Update

A single program offered to both parishes is being explored. There are benefits to offering the same programs to everyone. More opportunities could be offered and building community would be beneficial. There are practicalities that need to be considered moving forward. An assessment would be taken on what is currently offered as well as finding ways to build up the programs that are offered. This year there will be one sign up sheet for both parishes as a start to combining the programs. The hope is that ways can be found to free up resources in order to do more things by shifting the staffing as needed. There was positive feedback when programs were offered together in the past so moving towards this idea now will hopefully be positive.

- Playground at SJE

BT took out the playground on the property. It was not maintained and it became unsafe which caused it to be a liability. It also seemed to attract kids to the church campus when people were not around. SJE is considering adding playground equipment on its campus. Insurance information has been gathered and it seems like adding the equipment will be allowed if it is purchased and installed following approved methods.

- SJE CLC Liaison for BT - Nick

Mary Waitkus talked with Nick Cinquepalmi and he agreed to be the representative from SJE.

- Request Assistance in Identifying High Need Volunteers – Julia Rodemeier

Current staff are doing some tasks that could be done by volunteers. This would free up the staff members to work on other projects more related to their job description. Specifically, help with bookkeeping filing and help with the projection system are tasks which need help at this time. The days and times to volunteer are flexible. Please pass on any names of interested people to Lynn and/or Julia.

Administrator's Report – Fr. Michael

Fr. Michael announced that the Diocese asked him to write a letter to become pastor. He is happy to do this and will inform both parishes with the outcome. May 11 will be the first day of the Mass time change at St. John's. Sunday's Mass will move from 9:00AM to 8:30AM.

Closing Prayer – Fr. Michael

Adjournment: 7:50PM

Important Dates:

- May 15 – Blessed Trinity Pastoral Council Meeting
- May 22 – St. John Evangelist Pastoral Council Meeting