

**Blessed Trinity/St. John Evangelist
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2026 6:30 PM St. John's Parish Hall**

Council Members Present: Scott Birenbaum, Paul Garni, Terry Hartman, Mason K, Nancy Mathieu, Al Mayer, Rick Michaletz, Siena M, Jim O'Neill, Terry Rotter, Sarah Schueffner, Donna Stieghorst and Bridgitt Zielke

Parish Staff Present: Fr. Michael Lawinger and Julia Rodemeier

Excused Absence: Steven Falconer and Mary Jo Schultz

Call to Order: Sarah Schueffner

Approval of Agenda:

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the agenda. Jim O'Neill seconded it.

Approval of Minutes – Joint PC February 17, 2026 Meeting

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the minutes. Scott Birenbaum seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

Prayer Instruction:

Father Michael shared some documents that he found from when the new church at St. Mary's was established. He read a portion of one of the brochures that was a reflection on building for the future. After reading it, the question about what we hoped to build was asked. There were a number of responses including:

- A presence in our community...build the community around the church.
- Where a central part of each of us is the church. The church should not just be a building but also a part of us and in our hearts.
- Learn how to pray, not just to read the prayers.
- Build a community where we know one another and have friendships.

Old Business:

- Faith & Food Social – Just a reminder that the Pastoral Council will be hosting the Faith & Food Social on Sunday, June 7, at Blessed Trinity. Sarah will send out a separate email with regards to the planning for this event.

New Business:

- Youth and Adult Pastoral Council Nominations – Sarah Schueffner shared that we will be following the process utilized at Blessed Trinity in the past for both parishes. We will ask for nominations and offer an informational meeting to discuss the PC. Following that, we will have discernment that will be led by Father Michael.
- Religious Education Update – Father Michael once again shared the changes that will be taking place with Religious Education that will be led by Justin Spaeth. There will be a two-week summer program held in June and then twenty other events offered for individuals and families to attend throughout the year. This is a format that is utilized at other area parishes with very good results. The idea is to look at learning differently and take more of a non-classroom approach.
- 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. Traditionally, this has been a 50/50 split which may not be equitable in all situations. The Diocese does offer some guidance with

how to facilitate this, and it comes down to the number of parishioners at each parish and the time usage of the staff and where they are dedicating their time.

Father Michael is working with the Finance Council to come up with an equitable way to split the operational costs of the two parishes.

- Deanery Meeting Report – Sarah Schueffner reported that she attended the recent Deanery Meeting for the Fond du Lac/Sheboygan Deanery. At these meetings, the participating parishes bring forth questions and/or concerns to be shared with the Archdiocese. Unfortunately, Archbishop Grob was unable to attend to provide information regarding the questions from the prior meeting, so it was felt that they would focus on getting feedback on those questions before bringing up additional questions.
- St. John's Evangelist 100th Anniversary – Father Michael shared that St. John will be having their 100th Anniversary in October 2027. Father Michael is looking for volunteers that would be interested in helping with some of the planning for this event.
- Holy Week Feedback – Father Michael asked for feedback on Holy Week. The feedback was positive, and Father noted that he has been seeing some new faces at mass on the weekends since then. One suggestion was to meet with the Sacristans prior to Holy Week to help them be better prepared to assist in the activities of the week.

Pastor's Report:

Much was discussed during the meeting, and Father Michael did not have anything else to report at this time.

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda

- Religious Education Update
- Faith & Food Social
- Shared Service Agreement
- Joint Parish Picnic (currently scheduled for August 16)
- Nominations and Discernment for Pastoral Council

Closing Prayer – Father Michael