

**Blessed Trinity/St. John Evangelist  
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2025 6:30 PM St. John's Parish Hall**

**Council Members Present:** Sarah Schueffner, Rick Michaletz, Al Mayer, Scott Birenbaum, Terry Hartman, Nancy Mathieu, Mary Jo Schultz, Siena M., Terry Rotter

**Parish Staff Present:** Fr. Michael Lawinger and Julia Rodemeier

**Excused Absence:** Donna Stieghorst, Bridgitt Zielke, Mason K., Jim O'Neill

**Guests:** Members of the Blessed Trinity and St. John Evangelist Finance Councils

**Call to Order:** Sarah Schueffner

**Opening Prayer:** Father Michael Lawinger

**Approval of Agenda:**

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the agenda as presented. Al Mayer seconded it.

**Approval of Minutes –**

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2025, Joint Pastoral Council meeting. Mary Jo Schultz seconded it. Minutes were approved as written.

**Prayer Instruction: Pirate Prayer**

Father led those in attendance in the Pirate Prayer reiterating the four steps:

- Acknowledge: Bring to mind the thoughts and feelings you have right now.
- Relate: Name those things and offer them to our Lord.
- Receive: See what God wants to offer back to us. Listen for God's response.
- Rest: Nothing needs to be done for this part. This part can often be the most fruitful as you may notice that your body needs to settle and enjoy the quiet.

**Old Business:**

- As we are now a Joint Pastoral Council for the two parishes, an updated Appendix was required to reflect how the JPC will run going forward. The updated Appendix was reviewed and discussed. Al Mayer moved to approve the Appendix. Scott Birenbaum seconded it. The Appendix was approved as written.

**New Business:**

- Parish Planning: Father Michael spoke about the differences in the meanings of the "church" and the "parish". The church is a physical building(s). The parish includes people within a geographic area and is governed by both a legal structure and Canon law.  
This was followed by a discussion regarding future planning for the two parishes.

**Items for Next Meeting's Agenda**

- Nothing at this time.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Michael Lawinger

Important Date:

- December 6, 2025 – Father Michael's Installation Mass – Blessed Trinity Parish