

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**Finance Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 2026**

**Members Present:** Fr. Ryan Harpole, Bayne Million, Kathy Kemp, Steve Thornton, John Winstead, and Chris Vowels

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests:** Sharon Luster

**Call to Order**

Father Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with an opening prayer.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The first item on the agenda was a review of the November 17, 2025 meeting minutes as prepared by Chris Vowels. With no further discussion or corrections, John Winstead made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Steve Thornton. The Council unanimously approved the November meeting minutes.

**Review of Financial Statements**

The Council next reviewed the November 2025 financial statements and notes prepared by Sharon Luster, Finance Director.

At the end of November, the Parish had \$413k in its general funds, \$195k in Renew funds, and \$179k in the restricted endowment fund. Other notable items from the November financial statements included:

- Renew 2 Loan – Balance currently at \$631k with payments beginning in November
- Restoration Income – Received \$100k bequest
- Flowers Expense - \$1.4k for SJS poinsettia order
- Youth Ministry – \$1.2k for two additional NCYC registrations

Following a motion from Mr. Winstead and a second from Kathy Kemp, the Council unanimously approved the November financial statements.

**Renew / DeVries Office Building Update**

- Online Auction – Received proceeds of approximately \$3,000 from sale of old, excess furniture, fixtures, and furnishings.
- DeVries House - Demolition scheduled to take place in February by Scott Murphy Daniel.
- Marian Shrine – The plans for the restoration and expansion of the Marian Shrine were signed off/approved by the Bishop. The plans include adding a section for a bathroom and storage (approximately 288 square feet), an outdoor firepit and seating, additional stained-glass windows, new painting, raising up the sanctuary raised, and new wood flooring. The total cost of the project is about \$240k.

- Action – Bayne Million made motion to endorse and recommend to the Parish Council the Marian Shrine project and Devries house demolition. The funds for the project would be paid from the Diocesan savings and loan account and repaid from Renew funds. Mr. Thornton seconded the motion, and the Council unanimously approved it.

#### **Employment Retention Credit (ERC) Funds Update**

- ERC – Father Ryan proposed to the Bishop that the ERC funds be split 80% to St. Joseph and 20% to the Diocese.
- Pension Plan Funding – A working group is being formed to advise the Bishop on a way forward on pension plan funding shortfall.

#### **Chesterton Academy Update**

- The new headmaster will be Dr. Tom Stewart.
- Enrollment is currently open for upcoming freshmen and sophomores. Students who enroll now can lock-in the annual tuition for up to four years at the current rate of \$7,200/year.
- A joint fundraising dinner for the Academy and celebration of Fr. Ryan’s 15-year ordination anniversary will be held on Saturday, May 30.
- Donation/marketing efforts are currently underway.
- The Academy will pay the Parish approximately \$500 per month for cleaning, utilities, etc.

#### **Other Business**

- Fr. Ryan will be rolling out to the Parish a program for Lent called “Lent with the Holy Family.” A small booklet will be printed and distributed that includes family Lenten sacrifice ideas, prayers, and resources.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The Finance Council set its next meeting for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm in the rectory.

#### **Adjourn**

With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chris Vowels  
Secretary