ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
Finance Council Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2026

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: Sharon Luster (via telephone)

Call to Order
Father Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with an opening prayer.

Review and Approval of Minutes
The first item on the agenda was a review of the August 3, 2026 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 Kathy Kemp. The Council unanimously approved the August meeting minutes.

Review of Financial Statements
The Council next reviewed the September 2026 financial statements and notes prepared by Sharon Luster, Finance Director.

At the end of September, the Parish had $418k in its general funds, $31k in Renew funds, and $197k in the restricted endowment fund. Other notable items from the September financial statements included:

- Renew 2 Loan – Balance currently at $105k, with payoff of the loan scheduled for February 2027 assuming no extra principal payments made
- Investments Building Account – Includes $105k for the Marian Shrine project (total paid to date is $425k)
- Investment Returns Gain/Loss – Includes quarterly entries for the endowment fund
- Maintenance Expense – $2.7k for HVAC repairs
- Religious Education – $3.4k spent for annual book order

Ms. Luster also reported that the year-end Diocesan report had been submitted; however, no feedback has been received from the Diocese yet. Additionally, the Diocesan assessment increased for this year due to the growth in the Parish and corresponding increase in collections.

Following a motion from Mr. Winstead and a second from Mr. Steve Thornton, the Council unanimously approved the September financial statements.

Other Business

- Reverse Raffle and Chili Cook-Off – 102 tickets sold, with $5,000 given away to the top five who opted split the pot. The $4,500 of net proceeds from the event will be appropriated

for the youth group and Renew. Fr. Ryan only placed 6th in the chili cook off, thus proving the competition was not rigged.

- Marian Shrine Update – The grotto and courtyard are almost complete. Fr. Ryan intends to put together a video to explain the symbolism of the various aspects (stars, roses, lilies, etc.)
- Storage Building – The Knights of Columbus donated an additional amount to cover the increased costs of the new storage building, and the project is now complete.
- Chesterton Academy Gala – A fundraising even will be held on Saturday, November 7, at La Gala. While the event is free to attend, it is dependent upon donations from those attending.
- City Re-Zoning – SMD is working to get the whole campus re-zoned, which will make future construction projects easier to get approved. The City Commission is meeting to close Nugent Street and make it private property.
- Church Pews – Deacon Larry has done a lot of work recently to repair several kneelers in the Church.
- Mass Attendance – Weekly Mass attendance has increased by 50-75 Mass goers, but this still only reflects about 1/3 of registered parishioners attending regularly.

Next Meeting Date
The Finance Council set its next meeting for Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 6:00 pm in the rectory, which will be a co-meeting with the Parish Council.

Adjourn
With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chris Vowels
Secretary