St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting

Monday, October 12, 2026
6:00 PM Stone House

Members present: Fr. Ryan Harpole, Dawn (Betsy) Bolton, Cathy Heltsley, Kenton Mobley, Bradley York, Jacob Young

Opening Prayer: led by Fr. Ryan.

Welcome and Introductions:
Both the Hispanic and the Anglo Parish Councils were in attendance. All members introduced themselves.

Finance:
Fr. Ryan briefly explained that his goal is to responsibly use the funds we have to do the things that benefit the Parish.

Liturgy:

Church attendance is up 50-60 from last year and averaged 1550 in September.
Fr. Ryan is considering tweaking the current daily Mass schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday at 7:45am and Wednesday at 5:30pm in English, and Thursday at 6:30pm in Spanish) to having Thursday Mass in Spanish be at 5:30 instead of 6:30. The Hispanic members are checking on the impact of this.

Vespers are Nov. 1. All Saints Day falls on Sunday, so no separate Holy Day. Thanksgiving Mass will be at 8am. Advent begins November 29. The Christmas Mass schedule was discussed. Fr. Ryan is going to coordinate with Fr. Chris about some possible additions to accommodate more people.

Parish Life:
Fr. Ryan updated us on the Shrine Project. The Shrine is open, but there is no tabernacle, so no Eucharist yet, but soon! Fr. Ryan reiterated that many parishioners have worked on this project. With a $40,000 donation from the Knights of Columbus, 60 feet is being added to the existing Maintenance Building for the school bus.
Fr. Ryan asked for input on where to possibly put two outdoor signs.
The Reverse Raffle/Chili Cook-off is October 24. So far only 25 tickets have been sold, but tickets don't have to be purchased to attend. Fr. Ryan believes he will win this year. 😊
Artwork is needed for the Cana Room, and specifically for the bathroom.

St. Joseph School:
Fr. Ryan reported one school bus is bad and will not be used. There was no additional discussion about the school.

Chesterton Academy:
The students seem to be doing well. There is an inaugural Gala on Nov. 7.

Knights of Columbus:
A big thank you to the Knights was expressed for the $40,000 to the Maintenance Building! Fr. Ryan is working on a wish list that may or may not include another bus.

Miscellaneous Business:
A question was raised about the possibility of St. Joseph launching in the Hallow app. Also, a webstore for St. Joseph merchandise was discussed.

Next Meeting: November 24 at 6pm.

Closing Prayer: led by Fr. Ryan.

Dawn (Betsy) Bolton
Secretary, St. Joseph Parish Council