

St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2026

6:00 PM Stone House

Members present: Fr. Ryan Harpole, Dawn (Betsy) Bolton, Larry Conrad, Cathy Heltsley, Kenton Mobley, Sara Reynolds, Kelly Wiseman, Bradley York, Jacob Young

Opening Prayer: led by Fr. Ryan.

Welcome and Introductions:

All members briefly introduced themselves. All are new and serve three-year terms. Fr. Ryan explained the goal is to meet at least quarterly and the role of the parish council is advisory to Fr. Ryan.

Finance:

The Finance Council Meeting Minutes from their May 26, 2026 meeting were made available to the parish council members for their review. There were no questions.

Liturgy:

There are currently six Masses (in English: 4pm Saturday, 6:30am, 8am, 10am Sunday, and in Spanish: Noon, 2pm Sunday). Most of the Masses are full!

The daily Mass schedule is changing to Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday at 7:45am and Wednesday at 5:30pm in English, and Thursday at 6:30pm in Spanish.

The Church Staff is planning a Mass for the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Altar for August 23, 2026.

Parish Life:

Fr. Ryan updated us on the Shrine Project.

The school has a school bus now and with a \$40,000 donation from the Knights of Columbus, 60 feet is being added to the existing Maintenance Building.

Vacation Bible School had a good turnout with lots of music! A discussion ensued about the schedule (currently evenings 5-8pm) and meal or no meal for the future.

Seminarian Hunter Dickens did a good job this summer!

The topic of possible guest accommodations for the Stone House was discussed. Father asked if anyone was interested in helping with the Homebound Communion Visits as someone is needed to head it up. (Currently Anna Maroney is handling it.)

St. Joseph School:

Enrollment numbers are at about 350. All of the teachers from last year are returning this year. The new bus and a bus route will be a good incentive for new students. Long-term plans include a new pre-school building (hoping for 100 students) and a new gym. Both will require focused fundraising.

Chesterton Academy:

There are nine students – all are freshmen. They will attend daily Mass and until 3:15pm. All the teacher positions have been filled.

Knights of Columbus:

The Knights gave \$50,000 to the new high school and \$40,000 to the Maintenance Building!

Miscellaneous Business:

A question was raised about the hours for Adoration. Father noted the Church opens by 7am most days and is locked at 3pm.

Next Meeting: October 12 at 6pm.

Closing Prayer: led by Fr. Ryan.

Dawn (Betsy) Bolton

Secretary, St. Joseph Parish Council