

St. Joseph's Parish Council
Minutes for April 15, 2026 Meeting
6:00pm (Conference Room)

St. Joseph Vision Statement: *To provide a Catholic environment for our Parish, to embrace God's word, and to answer the call to holiness, leading to eternal salvation.*

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – Fr. Snyder, Deacon Mark Comer, Sr. Janet, Tricia Theyer, Jude Stork, Karen McWilliams, Dan Vrba, Bill Mueller, Charlene Kopp, Mike Lucas, Pat Rheingans, Sharon Fuglsang (lay director).

3. Recite St. Joseph Vision Statement: *To provide a Catholic environment for our Parish, to embrace God's word, and to answer the call to holiness, leading to eternal salvation.*

4. Opening Prayer -Blessing of the Council members by Sister Janet .

5. Approval of previous meeting minutes. March 18, 2026, minutes were emailed to each council member prior to our meeting by Council President Karen McWilliams. They were discussed briefly. A motion was made by Dan Vrba, seconded by Jude Stork to accept the minutes. They were voted on and accepted unanimously.

6. Finance & Administration/Maintenance- *Mike Lucas, Dan Vrba*
-Finance Council President. No Report.

7. Faith Formation/Board of Education- *Trisha Thayer, Karen McWilliams*
-Director of Faith Formation – Jasmine Tone submitted Report.
-St. Joseph's Scholl Principal – Sharon Rolling submitted Report.

8. Liturgy-Fr. Snyder, Sr. Janet and Dcn. Mark Comer.

-Fr. Mike said there will be a committee to look at this year's Holy Week. They will want input from parishioners. They want to know what worked well, and where might we use some improvement. This information will then be used when planning next year's Holy Week.

-Jude Stork and Deacon Mark thanked Father Mike for all of his time and effort making Holy Week a success. All present were in agreement.

-We had great attendance at the Easter Masses.

-OCIA. People commented how neat Saturday night's Mass was.

-One suggestion was that people sit during the Baptism so all could see.

-The OCIA Committee want to schedule a time to introduce all new members to the numerous ministries of our church. This would be a great way for new members to learn what is all available, and to get involved.

-Anointing of the Sick will be May 23 and 24th.

-Sr. Janet announced that there is now a Mass said at Legacy, Maggie's House, and Fieldstone facilities once a month. Also, there is a Communion Service at each once a month.

9. Church Life-Charlene Kopp,

-Altar and Rosary - No Report

-St. Joseph's Church Secretary. - No Report

-Knights of Columbus – Mike Lucas reported on the numerous church events the Knights are helping with Exemplification for Knights is at St. Joseph's – April 26, 2026 - after the 9:30 Mass.

St. Joseph's Confirmation – April 26, 2026. Honor Guard will be present.

Cinco De Mayo – May 2, 2026, Dinner will be served after 4:30 Mass
Senior Mass at St. Joseph's – May 3, 2026.
Religious Education Dinner – May 6, 2026.
St. Phillip & St. James First Communion, date not yet set.

10. Family Life -Pat Rheingans, Jude Stork

-Marriage Encounter- Scott Tarchinski. – No Report.
-Baptismal Preparation- No Report.
-Funeral Liaison- Sr. Janet -No Report.
-Cemetery Board-Jim Hand – No Report.

11. Social Action-Karen McWilliams, Jesse Pennock

-Sharon Fuglsang reported that the Heifer Project raised over \$7,000.

12. Continuing Business

-Father Mike reported that Kurtz Glass company is going to change the red glass this summer while the doors are being worked on.
- Father Mike requested we purchase new vestments for him and our Deacon. A motion was made by Tricia Thayer and seconded by Dan Vrba that we purchase new vestments. It was voted on and approved unanimously.
-Father Mike said the Vocation Ministry team is working on a comprehensive plan for vocations.
-The Emergency Action Plan is being worked on.
-Strategic Planning. A parishioner submitted several ideas for improving our technology in St. Joseph's Church and School. They include TV screens, Audio, and song boards. These will all be considered by the Renovation Committee.

13. New Business

-New Parish Council Members will be installed in June. We need names of interested parish members. Tricia Thayer will be done in May. Jude Stork, and Karen McWilliams have not yet decided if they would stay on for three more years. We will be drawing those new members plus and alternate at a Mass in May/
-Graduation Cards – cards were passed out, board members selected two students each to send a personal graduation card to.
-Karen is going to start organizing the Fall Festival. It will be September 27th. Also, next month we must select the groups that would receive the profits of the festival. In 2024 we gave to two groups. Last year we gave to four groups. The Fall Festival has raised over \$20,000 in the past 2 years.
-Father Mike proposed that St. Joe's sponsor one or two fish fries next spring. We discussed that it is a great community builder among the volunteers.

15. Next Meeting: Next Meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Tricia Thayer agreed to take the minutes that night, because Bill will not be present.

16. Closing Prayer: Led by Father Mike Snyder.

School Report to Parish Council

May 2026

Catholic Identity

During the April diocesan principals meeting, Lynne Devaney shared Bishop Walsh’s requirement for all principals to complete an annual Catholic Identity report for the school. This year, an abbreviated version of the report will be due June 30, 2026. As part of this report, Bishop has asked each school to develop a liturgical and devotional calendar to assist with faith planning for the school. Father Mike and I will be collaborating in June to prepare this calendar.

The teachers and staff have selected the school theme for the 2026-2027 school year. It is “Growing in Faith.”

Education Savings Account (ESA) and School Tuition Organization (STO)

The ESA enrollment period continues until June 30, 2026. If you know of anyone who is interested in enrolling at St. Joseph Catholic School, please have them get in contact with Sharon Roling.

The STO application period has ended, and the chart below indicates the number of applications for the past nine years.

School Year	Number of Families Submitting STO Application
2018-2019	27
2019-2020	36
2020-2021	26
2021-2022	23
2022-2023	28
2023-2024	29
2024-2025	28
2025-2026	27
2026-2027	40

Teachers/Staff

All returning teachers and staff have returned their contracts and all the open positions have been filled.

- Heidi Lippens will be the third grade teacher.
- Miranda Roemer will be the interventionist.
- Lola Blaser will be the 8th grade math teacher (new part-time position).

Spotlight on Students

Research consistently shows a positive correlation between extra-curricular involvement and middle school academic success. Participating in outside activities improves grades, standardized test scores, and academic motivation by fostering a stronger sense of school belonging and better time management skills.

All St. Joseph middle school students participated in at least one school-sponsored activity during the 2025-2026 school year. Activities included girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, cross country, football, wrestling, archery, swimming, track, robotics, band, musical, and Student Council. The following chart indicates the extent of student involvement.

Middle School Involvement in St. Joseph School Extra-Curricular Activities

	Involved in 1 extra-curricular activity	Involved in 2 extra-curricular activities	Involved in 3 extra-curricular activities	Involved in 4 extra-curricular activities	Involved in 5 or more extra-curricular activities
Grade 6	1	2	6	8	2
Grade 7	1	2	2	7	8
Grade 8	1	0	2	3	3
% of Total MS Student Involvement	6%	8%	21%	38%	27%

May Faith Formation Report

- Family Masses
 - Plan to have 6 Family Masses next year rather than the 7. The first will be in October. Schedule and grade assignments to come.
- Youth Group
 - High School Summer Service Trip to David, Kentucky will be June 28 – July 3. Registration is now available by contacting Jasmin Tone. Cost is \$400/youth.
 - 2 youth attending Notre Dame Vision. Jasmin will also be attending the Youth Ministry track.
- Totus Tuus
 - July 12-17
 - Registration available now!
 - Volunteer sign-up will be out now.
 - Food donation sign-up will be out at the beginning of June.
- Programming done for this school year. Religious Ed will kick back off September 9th.
- Catechists
 - As of right now, we will need at least 3 new Catechists for next year. This number may increase as I hear back from this year's group.