

St. Joseph's Parish Council

Minutes for August 20, 2025 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. 15 min tour of school classrooms to see improvements made

- Tour of 3rd & 4th grade classrooms as well as Science room to see new sink
- Teachers have new promethean boards (interactive white board)
- Many new renovations over the summer
 - i. Thank you to the many volunteers
 - ii. Thank you to Blue and Gold Bash, Boosters, Donations, etc.
- Enrollment for the school is up from last year (189 vs 177)
- New School sign is up on the West side of the building
- \$900 fine arts grant for gym sound board

3. Roll Call – (1 min.) Fr. Snyder, Deacon Mark, Sr. Janet, Mike Burken, Tricia Thayer, Lori Holst, Karen McWilliams, Dan Vrba, Jesse Pennock, Bill Mueller, Charlene Kopp, Mike Lucas, Pat Rheingans, ~~Matt McGuire~~ (lay director), Sharon Fuglsang (lay director)

4. Opening Prayer – Fr. Snyder

5. Approval of previous meeting minutes. – Motion to approve- Mike L., 2nd – Karen M, all approved

6. Election and installation of new Parish Council President

- Thank you to Mike Burken for his past service as President of the council
- Karen McWilliams nominated by Lori H., 2nd- Tricia T, approved by all
- Jesse Pennock volunteered for Vice President position – approved by all
- Bill Mueller volunteered for Secretary position – approved by all

7. Church Foundation formation update – Mike Burken

- Education foundation and Church Foundation all under one foundation
 - i. School, Church Cemetery (3 subdivisions)
 - ii. Separate from finance

8. Finance & Administration/Maintenance- Dan Vrba, Mike L

- Finance Council President-Mark Steffenhagen – no report this month
- Maintenance Advisory Team Coordinator-Don Fuglsang
 - There was a work day on Saturday, August 16th
 - 3 trees recently planted in playground area
 - Sod around 4 square needs to be done
 - Final maintenance items being taken care of before school begins
 - Hymn board for gathering space may be made by Dan or another parishioner

9. Faith Formation/Board of Education- Trisha Thayer, Karen McWilliams

- Director of Faith Formation-Jasmin Tone
 - See attached
- St Joseph's School Principal-Sharon Roling
 - See #2

10. Liturgy-Father Mike and Sister Janet

- Outside Masses

- i. Maggies House – Fr. Snyder and Sr. Janet alternate with mass and communion
 - ii. Fieldstone & Wheatland Manor – Fr. Snyder Mass monthly
- Bells for servers will replace the currently used gongs
- Gift procession will begin
- Candles - altar server in and out
- Gospel procession with 2 candles – 2 acolytes
- John Ahlberg is working on training sacristans
- Coffee & donuts will be served on months with no family masses
- Deacon Mark - OCIA classes
 - i. A team is being created to teach these classes
 - ii. There are a number of people interested
 - iii. Children older than 7 will take the class with their parents and receive some special training as well

11. Church Life-Lori Holst, Charlene Kopp

- Altar and Rosary - none
- St Joseph's Church Secretary-Becky Townsend
- Knights of Columbus- Bill M, Mike L
 - Flags will be out for Labor Day
 - Breakfast was served for the teachers last week
 - Tootsie roll sales are coming soon
 - \$4500 raised from baby bottles will be going to the Pregnancy Center

12. Family Life - Pat Rheingans

- Marriage Encounter- Tarchinski
- Baptismal Preparation
 - Researching updated materials for the class
 - Jo Claeys teaches these classes
- Funeral Liaison

13. Social Action-Deacon Mark, Karen McWilliams, Jesse Pennock

- Christian Social Action - Angel trees will be out in November
- Faith Community Health - Karen McWilliams
 - Senior exercise class in Tuesday mornings

Continuing Business

- Harness Hall rental process
 - i. Pat Sheil is the rental coordinator
- Lenten Fish Fry
 - i. 2026 – Jesse P will begin planning, deciding on location, etc
- Fall Festival, Karen M
 - i. Parish Council led
 - ii. Parish council member cashiers – Lori H, Bill M
 - iii. Carry outs begin at 3:30, General Serving at 4:00
 - iv. Music will be in the gathering space
 - v. Sign up is open now for volunteers as well as pies, produce, etc
- Replacing red glass in exterior Church doors
 - i. Kurtz Glass working on replacing red glass in exterior Church doors with tinted red glass (translucent so the ushers can see outside)
- Painting Church Interior
 - The process needed to follow for this will be discussed at the September meeting
- Discussion regarding Rectory use.

- Sr. Janet moving to the Rectory
 - Motion made by Tricia T and 2nd by Bill M, All approved

14. New Business

- i. Church Website concerns
- ii. Emergency Action Plan
 - 1. Not currently on the website
 - a. Discuss at September meeting
- iii. Several pages on the site appear to be under construction – Not showing any information – ongoing maintenance
- Parish Council by-laws
 - i. Review before next meeting – discuss any concerns or corrections and updates
- Church Directory
 - i. When to update and how to update – electronically?
 - ii. Keep up with technology
- Cemetery
 - i. Concerns about trash cans and dog bags
 - ii. Karen will contact Jim Hand
- New Members and potential members
 - i. Registration process, cards in pews?
 - ii. Information in bulletin, on website
 - iii. Karen will speak with Becky on this
 - iv. FR. Snyder to periodically remind new people to register with the office

15. Next Meeting: Next Meeting will be Sept 17

16. Closing Prayer: Sr. Janet (Prayer` of St. Bernard: Memorare

Meeting Adjourned 7:52pm

August Faith Formation Report

- Youth Group
 - Envelope Wall complete!
 - THANK YOU to everyone that took an envelope and donated.
- Religious Ed
 - Calendar, Registration Form, and Letter are available on the parish website:
<https://www.stjosephdewitt.org/reli>
 - We still need 1 MORE catechist for this school year. If you know anyone who could be a great witness to the faith, encourage them to volunteer! Anyone interested can contact Jasmin.
 - Classes will begin with a Family Meal on September 3.
- Jr. High Youth Nights
 - Over the last couple of years, there have been some requests for a Jr. High Youth Group. And this year, we're trying it out! Once a month, we will have a Jr. High Youth Group on Wednesday from 6-7:15pm. These will mainly take place in Harness Hall or the church with a couple of exceptions. These will range from social gatherings, to prayer, to service.
 - Schedule can be found with the RE schedule on the parish website.
 - Looking for additional adults to be present for these events.
- Confirmation
 - Rite of Welcome for Confirmation will take place on September 7th at the 9:30am Mass.
- Family Masses
 - We are continuing with Family Masses again this year.
 - September 21 - 6th & 7th grade
 - October 19 - 5th grade
 - November 16 - 4th grade
 - December 14 - 3rd grade
 - February 15 - High School
 - March 8 - 1st & 2nd grade
 - May 17 - Kindergarten & 8th grade