

**St. Joseph the Worker
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2025**

Attendance: Fr. Joe Molloy, Sr. Judy Pfile, Debbie Shawgo, Rachel Green, Autumn Cattoor, Grace Ann Thomas, Rob Flesher, Pat Kornfeld, Liz Reef, Jacob Siebert

Excused: Jennifer Trapani

- **Opening prayer-** Pat Kornfeld

- **Review and approve September 2024 meeting minutes**
 - A motion was made to approve minutes- Rob Flesher.
 - Seconded by Debbie Shawgo.
 - All council members were in agreement to approve.

- **Fr Joe Updates:**
 - Campaign updates:
 - The office staff (Deb and Sue) are updating and coordinating information for tax statements to be distributed to the parish.
 - Electrical work at the entrances for the ADA plans are in process (not the bathroom electrical yet).
 - Kitchen area reviewed and ideas/estimates are being established/created.
 - No updates regarding the church light/sound project at this time.
 - All projects are moving along or are in the coordination phase.
 - We are in the midst of Catholic School Week- Congratulations to the teachers and students of St. Joseph the Worker Pre-school Program!
 - There will be a free will offering at the end of masses this upcoming weekend (February 1st/2nd) in support of the Pre-school.
 - Stewardship Committee - Follow-up on future evangelization for the Parish based on recommendations made by Katie Price, Director, Diocesan office for Parish Vitality and Mission Advancement, in regard to the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Vitality Study.
 - What steps have the committee taken?
 - We decided to send out a letter inviting parishioners that have not attended mass consistently.
 - The message includes:
 - We miss you. The Lord misses you. We need you.
 - Thank you to all that do attend regularly
 - The letter will be on our church letterhead.
 - Hallow app Basic level, (\$2000 annual cost), discussed at the Stewardship meeting.
 - Sunday 8:00 Mass is back to the pre-Advent 2024/regular music format.
 - Many parishioners felt the lack of music and singing was “too quiet and missed the upbeat music” they did not prefer the instrumentals only format played at the offertory or responsorial psalm.

- No noticeable change in attendance was observed at the 8 AM Mass with either music format.
 - OCIA candidate- a 5th grader in our Parish.
 - Rite of acceptance was held Sunday 1/26/25 with his Faith Formation Class after the 8:00 AM mass.
 - Request for his Baptism, Confirmation & First Communion to be held at a special or smaller daily mass or the Easter Vigil depending on what is approved.
 - Ben Kwedar, former Pastoral Council member, is open to continuing to work with the parish council on SJW digital sign.
- **New Business**
 - **Thoughts on what to do after Communion. Guide for Fruitful Personal Prayer**
 - Everyone enjoyed the article.
 - No recommendations for changes of process at this time.
 - **Background Checks-**
 - New parishioners having difficulties trying to complete the background check. Grace Ann needed help to do hers. The link is complicated. Can we simplify?
 - This an outsourced program purchased for use by the diocese and can only be revised by the provider. The diocese does not have control over the programming content although suggestions for a friendlier format have been voiced.
 - The parish office staff is available to assist anyone having trouble navigating the process either over the phone or in person.
- **Old Business**
 - **Mission speakers/musicians for 2025-2026**
 - Reviewed table of options created by Pat Kornfeld using information previously obtained by other Pastoral Council committee members:
 - Speaker Options include: Fr. James Sichko, Lee Roessler/Joe Farris, Sr. Joseph Andrew Bagdanowicz, OP, and Sr. Mary Paul, OP of the Springfield Dominicans
 - Sr. Mary Paul OP- She is open to Sundays or 2 consecutive week nights. Parish picks topics. No basket to be passed, donation for the parish. (adult audience or families).
 - The board discussed a desire to do a Family Mission (youth and adult mission).
 - Lee Roessler and Joe Farris that might meet both groups.
 - Check references- ask for names of other parishes that have used both.
 - Check September availability (Oct-Nov if needed).
 - Open to other parishes to attend and share the cost?
 - Fr Joe to text (Bishop Carl Kemme) to get his thoughts on either of the speakers.
 - Space out the dates if the youth/adult events will be separate.
 - An event this lent would be too soon to build up the attendance that we desire.
 - Get Sr. Mary Paul for this lent?

- Father Joe contemplating a Lenten series regarding 'The Sacraments'- Thursday nights 5:30-6:30 potentially.
- **Hallow App-**
 - Recommended use by Thomas Gallagher, (Director of Evangelization at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Charleston), our sign-up offer from Hallow is "running out of time"
 - Offer to launch for lent- Basic membership is \$2000 for 1 year
 - Parishioners get 6 months of access.
 - Parishioners would have to enter their own credit or debit card information to join.
 - After 6 months they would have to close the account or accept the monthly fee.
 - The council members do not feel good about endorsing the use of individual's credit cards linked to this endeavor for the free six months.
 - Mixed feelings about the app.
 - Should we endorse this over another app?
 - Consensus was not to accept the Hallow App offer at this time.
 - Suggestion made to offer online worship choices, including the Hallow App in the parish bulletin and let interested parishioners choose their own options.
- **Donut Sundays Follow up**
 - Occurred 1/26/25 after Sunday masses & Fellowship after Saturday evening mass on 1/25/25.
 - Patti Lang, Chair of the Stewardship committee, will implement the suggested quarterly donut Sundays.
 - KC's are willing to provide the manpower and donuts 2 times a year to use the time to recruit new members.
 - 18 dozen ordered in January and only 1 dozen was left over.
- **Pastoral Council group photo to occur at the February meeting.**

Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2024 @ 5:30PM

Opening Prayer: Grace Ann Thomas