

**Blessed Trinity/St. John Evangelist
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025 6:30 PM Blessed Trinity Parish Church Hall**

Council Members Present: Sarah Schueffner, Rick Michaletz, Al Mayer, Scott Birenbaum, Paul Garni, Terry Hartman, Nancy Mathieu, Mary Jo Schultz, Donna Stieghorst, Mason K., Siena M., Jim O'Neill and Terry Rotter

Parish Staff Present: Fr. Michael Lawinger and Sandy Jordan

Guest: Steve Faust

Call to Order: Sarah Schueffner

Approval of Agenda:

Jim O'Neill moved to approve the agenda as presented. Rick Michaletz seconded it.

Approval of Minutes:

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the minutes of September 16, 2025, Joint Pastoral Council. Jim O'Neill seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as written.

Deanery Meeting Information:

Steve Faust shared information about the role of the Deanery and the recent meeting that was held. The Archdiocese's Pastoral Council (APC) consists of 11 Deaneries with two representatives from each Deanery, a representative from the priests, sisters, lay ministers, Deacons, two representatives from the Archdiocese's staff, the associate Bishops and Archbishop Grob.

The Deanery is designed to provide communication between the parishes and the Archdiocese. Our parishes are part of the Fond du Lac/Sheboygan Deanery. Additional information that was presented will be uploaded to the Joint Pastoral Council shared folder.

Prayer Instruction: Rosary

As October is dedicated to Mary, Father Michael led those in attendance in praying the Rosary. The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells.

Old Business:

- CGS/RE Update
Catechesis of the Good Shepard (CGS) – The atrium is getting close to being finished. There seems to be a great deal of interest in this program.
Religious Education – Religious Education classes are progressing very well. This Thursday, October 23, Father Michael will be trapshooting with the youth group with the help of parishioners so hopefully it will be a one-on-one experience for those taking part. This will take place at the Falls Conservation Club beginning at 5:00 pm.

New Business:

- Parish Annual Meetings:

Blessed Trinity held its Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, October 19. Father shared that BT is doing very well and shared updates on projects that have been completed or planned for the church. Father also talked about the Endowment Fund the parish has, and he would like to focus on growing this to potentially be a source to provide perpetual care for the church.

St. John's will be conducting its Annual Parish Meeting the weekend of November 8 & 9. Father shared that the parish is running at a slight deficit this year which can be attributed to several projects that were undertaken that were not planned, but it was felt that it was better to address them immediately versus delaying them. Father would like to start a stewardship drive for SJE to help fund specific projects.

As the two parishes continue to work together, this should continue to help both parishes cut expenses that have been duplicated for each of the two parishes.

Pastor's Report:

Father Michael led a discussion with regards to future opportunities for the two parishes.

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:

- Father Michael would like to have the next meeting be a joint meeting with the Joint Pastoral Council along with the Finance Councils of the parishes.

Closing Prayer – Fr. Michael

Important Dates:

- November 15 – Blessed Trinity's Autumn Fest