

ST. JOSEPH PASTORAL COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Ex. Off. Rev. Jeffrey Hennes
2025 Mike Daniels
2025 Tim Higgins
2025 John Lutz
2025 Ellen Miskowski
2026 Jean Brazzale
2026 Sally Dehlinger
2026 Kris Hansen

Absent/Excused Members:

2026 Luke Wachowiak

- I. Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with Prayer
- II. Minutes were approved via email following the last meeting.
- III. Welcome to new council members; all in attendance reviewed their contact information
- IV. Old Business:
 - A. Diocesan Annual Appeal
 1. 2023/2024: Our goal was \$57,870, pledged/paid was \$42,703; which left a shortfall of \$15,167. Participation was 142 families. Our parish savings will cover the shortfall. It will be paid off within three months.
 2. 2024/2025: Our goal is \$59,560. We will kick off the last weekend of October. Our stability and a few more people giving \$100 or more per year caused the rise.
 - B. Inspired by the Spirit, payments continue to be made. The major project for this campaign is underway.
 - C. Building Projects
 1. Steps are currently underway. The rainy season delayed the project, but all is going well. There is one modification to the project. We were initially going to use natural stone, but they will be using a special treatment for the concrete where it will look like the natural stone. It is less maintenance and more cost effective. The project should be completed in mid-October and we will do a blessing then.
 2. Question was raised if we would automate the door from the ramp to the Church. Will try leaving it propped open before Mass as the HVAC works differently than before.
 3. Possibly redecorate the Conference Room into a more comfortable space. The fence around the parking lot has also been discussed regarding updating signage and possible future removal; no decisions have been finalized.
 4. HVAC point of interest: There are three distinct zones: the Church, the Gather Space, and the Family Center. Be mindful of the zones when turning on the system. If we aren't using a space, close doors to heat/cool only the used space. The kitchen is still on its own system.
 5. The dumpsters were moved to the parking lot area, which is closer to the kitchen. Garbage should no longer need to be taken through the building and over the new carpeting.
- V. New Business
 - A. Staffing Update:
 1. Jacob resigned in early August. Kristi retains the title of Office Manager, the job now includes the finances; she retained other tasks. Wendy was hired as the receptionist; she will assist with office tasks, and answer all incoming calls to cultivate a warm, welcoming environment. The office furniture was rearranged to accommodate the new staffing roles.
 - B. October Social: Pastoral Council is scheduled to host the weekend of October 26/27.
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - A. Education, Fr. Hennes: School year is off to a good start. St. Stephen and St. Bronislava installed STEAM labs during the summer; St. Peters should get one next year. The High School lost a math teacher who passed away after the first day of school of natural causes. We had our first grades 1-8 class the night before. Pacelli did hire a new president, Phil VanDenBrink started July 1. He is happy to be back in the midwest and to have be in a Catholic school setting. CCD now starts every night with prayer, but split from grades 1-5 and grades 6-8. Middle school is easing into the Life Teen model, and the prayer is a mixed-media presentation. Confirmation preparation will begin in October. This upcoming weekend is retreat weekend, there is a middle school retreat on Saturday, September 21 at St. Stephen. The Confirmation retreat will be on Sunday, September 22 at St. Joseph, it will begin with the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
 - B. Parish Family Life, Tim: Parish Family Life hosted a social on Saturday, July 27, and a Potluck lunch on Sunday, July 28. The potluck was not well attended and we will be looking at the possibility of

hosting the potluck in September rather than the summer months. The September social will be hosted by Sacred Worship. Pastoral Council is hosting the October social on Saturday, October 26 & Sunday, October 27. Parish Family Life will host the social on November 16 & 17. We will also be sponsoring the Meal of Hope in December.

- C. Buildings & Grounds, John: Father mentioned most points earlier. There is still some lighting that needs to be changed out. The two antique light fixtures at the Wyatt
- D. Call to Justice, Tim, Sally will take over this report for future meetings: John & Mary wrote grants to the Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership of Portage County and to the Stevens Point Co-op requesting funds to support the takeaway pantry items that are provided at our monthly meals. The parish received \$1000 and \$393, respectively, from these two groups for 2024. These funds are supplemented by grants provided by Thrivent (\$750 so far this year) and support from St. Joes. We are offering the pantry at every meal and more than 3/4 of the available items are taken by guests each month.

1. Monthly meal recap:

- a) May 20, 2024 - Subgroup of St. Anne's - Over 43 meals were served. Carryout only as Family Center was being remodeled. Sally Nash provided \$250 from a Thrivent grant to purchase food for the meal and items for the guest take-home pantry. Mary and John purchased additional items for the pantry from the HPPP grant and from the St. Joes parish support. As usual, most (at least 3/4) of the pantry items were taken by the guests. Items included canned foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, home cleaning supplies, and toiletries.
- b) June 17, 2024 - Finance Council. 23 meals were served with an additional 15+ carryouts. Mike Bialas did most of the cooking with other Finance Council members providing desserts and help with the meal. As usual, a "take-home" pantry also was setup and available for the guests. It included fresh fruit and vegetables, canned goods, and cleaning supplies and toiletries. About 3/4 of the pantry items were taken by the guests.
- c) July 15 - Boy Scout Troop 297: 30 guests + 23 carry outs. Mike Daniels and nearly the entire troop and leaders (12 scouts and 6 adult leaders) were there to help. Gail and Gene Tubbs and Jeanette Kozickowski helped too. The meal consisted of barbecues, pasta salad, watermelon, and brownies. An extensive pantry of fresh fruits and vegetables, canned goods, and cleaning and personal hygiene supplies was setup on two large tables. About 90% of the items were taken by guests. The pantry is being used by guests more and more each month. Tari Wallner also provided some pantry items from a group (outside of St Joes) that she is associated with.
- d) August - K of C: About 50 meals were served. Rich and Diana Mrozinski and Terri Miller helped with setup and cleanup. Mary and I bought pantry items before we left for vacation and put them in the St. Anne's closet to be put out for the meal.

2. Upcoming planned meals:

- a) September - Dave Meuller / St. Stephen's
 - b) October - 4th Degree K of C (Duane)
 - c) November - Tari Wallner Women's Club of PoCo
- E. Sacred Worship, Kris: Ushers are doing Mass counts the first weekend of each month and every weekend of October. Ministry sign-up will take place in October. There will be a training session on November 7. They are still looking for someone to lead the Kid's Noel Mass. There will be a new creche for the outside.
 - F. St. Anne's, Ellen: Bob Rutta was the guest speaker, he shared his books and experiences during the war. The bake sale is the weekend of October 26/27. Their next meeting is a potluck on October 14 at 12:30 p.m. The kitchen will be cleaned in November. They have agreed to assist with Sr. Sue's anniversary on August 2, 2025. The Cookie Walk will again be held in December.
 - G. Holy Name, Mike: The first men's prayer is this Saturday. The Pork Roast dinner is October 19, flyers are ready for sharing. If you want to donate a basket for the Pork Roast Dinner basket raffle.

VII. Other

- A. Holiday Basket: We will again plan to sponsor a family.

VIII. Next Meeting: December 12, 6 p.m.