

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL
MARCH 6, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman John Hopkins at 7:00pm.

Members present: John Hopkins, Vice Chairman, Angee Clark-Hellon, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Jan Gremaud, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Tom Mines, Brenda Neumann, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff

Members absent: Paul Baumgartner, Dan Jackson, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Joel Petry.

No additions or corrections to the February 6 Minutes. Motion was made by Joel Petry and seconded by Tom Mines to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin told the group that parishioner Pat Gagne has passed away and her visitation and funeral would be on March 14. Also, Msgr. Dave Peters, who had been a pastor at St. Paul's in Highland, is now in Hospice in Decatur.

Written Monthly Reports: No questions on the monthly reports submitted for Bookkeeper, St. John Neumann, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry.

Old Business

Centennial Campaign: John reported that he has been added on to the Centennial Campaign Committee with Jim Sagovac and Karen Simpson. As a result of their Friday zoom meeting, there will be more briefings coming out. The Capital Campaign is not going to start until after Labor Day in September. There is now a contract with OSV (Our Sunday Visitor fundraising consultant) that already may have been signed. OSV's costs to the parish were more reasonable than other options. OSV will come up with a figure parishioners can pledge based on contribution records. Fr. Kevin has had past success in asking parishioners for capital campaign support by telling people that is our responsibility to keep working on behalf of the Kingdom of God in this locality and keep the parish going for the next 100 to 200 years. It is a pledge that will be fulfilled over three years. John added that there would be a type of casual reception held in St. Joseph's Hall for a select 30 or 40 families based on 3+ years of giving statements from the parish. OSV will need help from St. Ann's and the Knights of Columbus. OSV will be represented at the reception and will distribute packets to the attendees. Jan mentioned that there would be zoom training for those helping with the Campaign. OSV will lead the requests for parishioner pledges in September.

Rideshare Ministry: No activity over the past month. The Rideshare Ministry continues to be promoted in the bulletin and on the narthex video screen.

Pastoral Council Goals: Angee and Gail (Community Pillar) presented a 2025 preliminary fellowship event calendar. Kelly had offered the help of SJN youth for set up and clean up before and after events. Angee reported that a request for Welcome Committee volunteers will go into the bulletin in two weeks to have this committee up and functioning by May 5. The St. Jerome parish Bingo has been moved to June 8. Ice cream party will be after each Mass on July 12 & 13, and Angee has ordered the ice cream. The Parish Council members are asked to help with this event. Cookies will be distributed four times a year after the 4:00pm and 10:30am Masses on Donut Sunday weekends. The first distribution of 150 cookies in February was a success. Perhaps the youth could help with this event in the future. Mass on the Grass is 10:30am Sunday, September 28, on St. Jerome property.

Grief Committee: Work will begin on the Grief Committee when the Welcome Committee is firmly in place. Those who are already interested in the Grief Committee are picking up pamphlets and gathering information. Gail asked about using a GriefShare support program that is being offered in area churches, but we would also need that personal touch from our committee members to augment what is learned at GriefShare. Sr. Linda Mary added that Highland has a GriefShare group. Angee will check into GriefShare and also reach out to Deacon Bob for information. Person-to-person help will be most important. Angee plans to have the Grief Committee going by August.

Old Business (continued)

Welcome Committee: Gail asked about preparation of a new parish directory. Angee will check with Jodi in the office about putting together twelve copies of a simple directory for our new parishioners. Angee discussed collecting items for a welcome bag as well and host a coffee and donuts event for new parishioners including representation from Knights of Columbus, St. Ann's, etc., as had been done in the past.

New Business

Stations of the Cross: The first Stations of the Cross will be led by Fr. Kevin 7:00 pm on Friday, March 7 and by St. Ann's on March 14. Angee and John discussed developing a schedule and invitation to join the Stations of the Cross throughout Lent as an insert in the Sunday bulletin or on a weekend handout. A discussion on the various logistics and station/prayer assignments followed. Remaining Stations of the Cross would be: 7:00pm, Friday, March 21, Sr. Linda Mary; March 28, Pastoral Council; April 4, Knights of Columbus; and 6:00pm Sunday, April 13, Living Stations of the Cross led by the Youth Group. Tom Mines added that a 50-year-old Stations of the Cross booklet had been found at St. John the Baptist Chapel when photos were taken of the stations on the chapel walls. Attendance could be a part of everyone's Lenten sacrifice.

Pulse of the Parish

Jan received a suggestion from a couple of parishioners to include in the bulletin a bio on new staff members and new parishioners, such as Steve Shininger, our new Music Director, to get more publicity and information disseminated.

Jan also mentioned that, in the past, a monthly calendar had been printed up with the Mass times and activities for the month. John reminded everyone that this information is on the website, but there may be parishioners who don't use the website. Angee asked if this information could be put on the video screen, doing it by week. Tom suggested putting the information in the bulletin two weeks or a month before so parishioners can put it on their own calendars. John added when there is space in the bulletin to ask parishioners to check the website for the calendar of upcoming activities. Brenda suggested printing up 25 copies of the current calendar and placing them in the narthex for anyone who needs them. Calendars could be included in the Friday email newsletter.

Another suggestion was made to Jan about having a parishioner get up before each Mass to welcome the new people and also give the name of the celebrant and readers for that Mass. (The purpose is to get parishioners to know and be able to recognize each other better.) Jan expressed concern about finding parishioners who would do this at each Mass. A couple of people did volunteer to Jan to make the announcements before their Masses. Fr. Kevin does welcome everyone including those who are new. He added that he was trying to get the Mass less wordy. After some discussion, the group agreed that it would be difficult to coordinate this new activity when it is sometimes difficult, through the fault of online scheduler errors, to confirm the various regular readers and ministers. John discussed the importance of parishioners' knowing each other and of obtaining and consistently using name badges for Pastoral Council and readers, plus perhaps crosses for servers, readers and Eucharistic ministers.

There being no further business, Joel Petry offered the closing Prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Next meeting is scheduled Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder