

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL
APRIL 3, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:03pm.

Members present: Chairman Dan Jackson, Vice Chairman John Hopkins, Paul Baumgartner, Angee Clark-Hellon, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Jan Gremaud, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Tom Mines, Brenda Neumann and Jim Sagovac, Finance Council

Members absent: Joel Petry, Betsy Weinel, Gail Wolff

Opening Prayer was offered by Jan Gremaud.

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

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin reported that two weeks ago Bishop Paprocki and priests of the Diocese had their annual meeting in Collinsville. There was further discussion about the need to reduce the number of Masses at the parishes. It was recommended by the group studying this issue that St. Jerome go from three to two Masses each weekend. There are no due dates for this change. Area parishes will need to work together to stagger their Mass schedules to accommodate area Catholics. Further study will be necessary before a decision is made. Dan suggested that this be placed on pending agenda items for the time being.

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

Jim Sagovac, Finance Council, responded to various questions and format suggestions on the Bookkeeper report that was presented.

Old Business

Centennial Campaign: Jim Sagovac, who is Co-Chairing the Centennial Campaign Committee along with Co-Chair Karen Simpson, Amanda Dotzert, Jan Gremaud, Tim Poletti and John Hopkins, reported on the kick-off zoom meeting held that day with OSV (Our Sunday Visitor, Centennial Campaign consultant). He has been very impressed with their presentations, where before each meeting they ask Father for a prayer. There will be some activity before our pledge week with three pulpit talks—the first one on September 28 Mass on the Grass to let parishioners know what is happening by actually pointing out the projects included in the campaign, such as the church, roof and skylight. OSV takes care of all the printing, mailings and then ships pre-stamped envelopes to St. Jerome so they can be sent out from Troy (which still may show a St. Louis cancellation). For the bigger donors, Fr. Kevin may visit them personally or there may be receptions held for them. Ten or twelve volunteers are needed to greet people at receptions and help sort pledge cards. The OSV representative will ask for pledges. Volunteers will not do that. 412 pledge cards will be sent out to parish families. All that is asked is that all 412 pledge cards be returned whether a family is pledging or not. This is a 3-year pledge, so the total pledge can be broken up across the 3 years. Wrap-up date is late October

Jim Sagovac is looking for an amateur photographer with a good camera to take 16-20 photos around the church and grounds (including areas in need of funds) for use in the Centennial Campaign booklet.

Pastoral Council Goals: No additional goals have been received.

Welcome Committee: Angee reported that the notice for Welcome Committee volunteers will go into the Bulletin the following week. We have two volunteers. First meeting will be May 5 to set the goals.

Old Business (continued)

Grief Ministry: Angee added that once we have the Welcome Committee set up, we will be able to move forward with the Grief Ministry. So far, five people have agreed to be on the Grief Ministry. Outside counselors will also be sourced.

2025 Fellowship Calendar: Several corrections were made regarding the dates for providing cookies after 4:00pm and 10:30am Masses on Donut Sunday weekends (3rd weekends in May, August and November). Prairie Farms will provide ice cream sandwiches for the July ice cream party. Brenda mentioned that Trunk or Treat is always the Sunday before Halloween. Extra Pastoral Council help is being requested for the November 16 Potluck and Bingo.

Name Badges for Pastoral Council Members: John discussed the need for Pastoral Council members to wear name badges to better connect with parishioners in our effort for greater transparency. Gail had presented a sample of a magnetic badge at a cost of less than \$15 each. John will order them. There was further discussion about the need for all the plastic name badges displayed in the prep room. John offered to sort through them and keep only those for current parishioners and ministries. Tom suggested that several generic "Volunteer" badges be made for anyone to use who volunteers for various parish activities. Angee added that she has ordered crosses so that servers, greeters, readers and Eucharistic ministers will have them to wear at Mass.

Stations of the Cross: John reported that the Pastoral Council Stations of the Cross went very well. Jan was thanked for providing the booklet version of the Stations that Pastoral Council used. Having provided a flyer printed ahead of time with the Stations of the Cross schedule during Lent, we were able to see greater attendance.

Fr. Kevin added that he is considering extending the Holy Thursday Adoration from 10pm to midnight due to an increasing number of people who are accustomed to Eucharistic Adoration.

Staff Bios: After some discussion, a suggestion was made to publish in the bulletin a biographical sketch of staff members, both new and longer term. One staff member per week.

New Business: No new business.

Pulse of the Parish: Kelly reported that this past weekend St. Cecilia parish had someone get up before Mass to welcome everyone. He thanked them for coming and introduced the priest. Dan said that years ago St Jerome had a "Commentator" who before Mass welcomed everyone and made announcements.

Jan added that the day before she had spoken to our distributor from Carlinville, who informed her that the place where we get palms for Palm Sunday had extreme flooding, preventing him from getting to the palms. They finally got possession of them from UPS yesterday. With over one hundred stops, the distributor was praying that he and his family members could get palms out to all the parishes by Palm Sunday.

There being no further business, Jan offered the closing Prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next meeting is scheduled Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder