

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL
MAY 1, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:01pm.

Members present: Chairman Dan Jackson, Vice Chairman John Hopkins, Paul Baumgartner, Angee Clark-Hellon, Jan Gremaud, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Tom Mines, Brenda Neumann, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff

Members absent: Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Betsy Weinell

Opening Prayer was offered by Kelly Houston.

No additions or corrections to the April 3 Minutes. Motion was made by John Hopkins and seconded by Angee Clark-Hellon to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin reported that Easter went well, while overcoming the complications that went with it. A thank you note went out to all the ministers. The new scheduling program replacing Servant Keeper may have a new minister's schedule in it, but Brenda stated that it is not quite ready to go yet. In response to learning of the death of Pope Francis, Fr. Kevin will be highlighting in the Bulletin some of the Pope's good writings. Fr. Kevin has been asked to celebrate Mass for his 50th high school class reunion and homecoming the weekend of October 11-12 at St. Patrick's Church in Decatur. Fr. Steve Pollman will cover for him at St. Jerome. This coincides with Fr. Kevin's Capital Campaign appeal, so schedule adjustments are being made. Fr. Kevin is determining Mission Co-op Weekend when a priest from the Diocese, who is from India but now working in Chicago, will be here. Fr. Kevin is leaving for Toledo where the Midwest Canon Law Society is having its convention, and he will be away from Sunday afternoon until Wednesday next week.

Fr. Kevin announced that he will be on retreat the first week of June, so the Pastoral Council meeting has been moved to Thursday, May 29.

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

Old Business

Centennial Campaign: Next meeting, Friday, May 9.

Pastoral Council Goals: No additional goals have been received.

Welcome Committee: There will be an announcement in the Bulletin May 17-18 requesting volunteers to help welcome new parishioners. Gail mentioned that as of May 1, she learned we have three new families to welcome.

2025 Fellowship Calendar: May 17-18 "Donut Sunday" Cookies. Gail will be in charge of cookies after 4:00pm Mass on Saturday along with any families or youth who wish to participate. Dan offered to help on May 18 to distribute cookies after the 10:30 Mass.

September 28 Mass on the Grass: Angee advised that we need to start getting organized now for the September 28 Mass on the Grass (to be held on parish grounds, weather permitting). She asked that the Pastoral Council do brats and hot dogs and Pastoral Council members bring Mac & Cheese as a side dish (which will all get mixed together). We will ask St. Ann's to provide desserts; and parishioners can bring a snack such as chips, etc., keeping it simple. Pastoral Council will be the committee in charge of this event. There was additional discussion about offering fried chicken or hamburgers. Dan added that this event should be placed in the Bulletin well ahead of time.

Old Business (continued)

St. Joseph's Hall Rental: After doing some research (Knights of Columbus Hall rentals, library rentals, the park rentals, etc.), Dan presented a list of items that could be included in a contract or agreement for renting St. Joseph's Hall to parishioners only. Discussion followed regarding what to charge for rental, cost of clean up after rental events, infraction of rules, coordination through parish office, conflicts with Brenda's youth group schedules, effort required in moving the walls, renters' not being allowed to use the stove or kitchen supplies/utensils, no alcohol allowed, maximum capacity (with walls up and with walls down) and fire code, which addressed most of the Pastoral Council's initial concerns. Dan asked the group to think about this and to let him know any other issues or ideas.

Pastoral Council Bylaws: Chairman Dan Jackson and Fr. Kevin signed the Pastoral Council Bylaws, consistent with the Mission of the Church of Saint Jerome, Troy, Illinois.

Father McGivney Presentation: Tom asked about the McGivney students' periodically coming to a Pastoral Council meeting to talk about their projects and determine if there are some things they can do for St. Jerome such as cleaning, landscaping, moving walls, etc. The youth can be a resource for both the school and our parish.

Crosses for Ministers: Angee received the crosses for greeters, readers and Eucharistic ministers to have and to wear at Mass. Each minister will keep their own cross.

New Business:

At the request of the Tuesday Faith Sharing Group, Angee asked Fr. Kevin about purchasing for the parish copies of the "Little Book on the Eucharist" with the church purchasing them or perhaps the cost being split between St. Ann's and the Knights of Columbus. This is a 30-day devotional not tied to a particular time of the year. Dan is in favor of purchasing the books but thinks the Finance Council should be involved. Tom thought that having these in the fall during Ordinary Times would be a good interval to use the books. After more discussion, Fr. Kevin approved going forward with this initiative.

Pulse of the Parish: Jan brought up a problem she discovered as she was planting flowers. There is a widening crack in the retaining wall that supports the awning over the parish office door. Upon closer inspection, Jan noticed that the piece of concrete that is cracked is now loose and shared photos with the Council. Dan said to make the Finance Council aware of this issue. Jan will share the photos, and Dan will contact Keith Detmer.

At the end of the meeting, Jan asked Fr. Kevin if he could pray with the Rummage Sale volunteers to kick off a successful event Friday morning, May 16; and he agreed.

There being no further business, Kelly offered the closing Prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Due to Fr. Kevin's out-of-town schedule, the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder