

## **ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL MARCH 5, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:02pm.

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

Members absent: Joel Petry, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Dan Jackson.

After a short discussion, there were no additions or corrections to the February 5, 2026, 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:** At the last Finance Council meeting that Fr. Kevin attended, he stated that at the March meeting they would discuss plans for 104 Wayland (Sr. Linda Mary's convent house). Any suggestions will be welcome. Fr. Kevin is continuing the work he needs to do with Evangelical Catholic and establish a core team of five people to confer with him. This will be the beginning of a process of forming communities. It will be similar to the ARISE groups, which will stay intact. Plans are falling into place for Holy Week. The priests' annual meeting is coming up March 17 in Springfield through Wednesday, March 18. This week, Fr. Kevin was very grateful to have attended an Evanston presentation on "Islamophobia." For 35 years, Fr. Kevin has been interacting with Muslims; and this is a continuing struggle with helping people recognize that, yes, they have a right to be here and we could learn from them. Search for a new principal at SJN will start August or September. Russ Hart is retiring the end of the 2026-27 school year.

**Written Monthly Reports:** Jan brought up a question from the Cemetery Board, followed by a discussion, on whose responsibility it is (Finance Committee or Office Administration staff) to obtain a lower-cost option for cemetery and church property grass cutting, as the cost has gone up \$2,500. Fr. Kevin will discuss with Betsy. There were no questions on the monthly reports submitted for St. John Neumann, Treasurer's Report and Youth Ministry, which had collected \$857 cash for Souper Bowl.

### **Old Business**

**Centennial Campaign – Capital Projects:** Paul provided an update on the current projects underway. The HVAC control system update was completed January 21; and to make this fully functional, including energy conservation, monitoring, all the new features the system offers, the new Wi-Fi network will be installed in April. The result will be significant cost and energy savings. On February 16, the kitchen hood was completely repaired—completely safe and completely functional and meets code. Four large pine trees threatening the church were removed. Kitchen door lock was repaired this week. The gate lock at the top of the kitchen stairs was removed, as this is an egress exit. Paul installed the magnetic door lock and video door alarm on the office entrance. Paul can monitor door activity on his phone. Jodi can talk to visitors and buzz them in. This video alarm system cost a total of \$250. Today, Paul installed new lightbulbs and switches in the quilt room and the reading room. Ambo microphone popping sounds were greatly reduced after placing a grounding mat behind the ambo and a touch button releasing static electricity. Several microphone jacks were replaced. Coming up—March: The fire alarm system maintenance. April: 5 new security cameras will be installed as well as the new Wi-Fi network connecting the office and the church. Carl Riebold has agreed to be our IT person. Landscaping work is on the schedule. Tomorrow the Fr. McGivney students are coming up to help with projects. Upcoming jobs:

**Old Business Continued (Centennial Campaign – Capital Projects)**

Ceiling tile replacement. St. Joseph Hall walls and repairs after May 18. Hall floor replacement. The skylights project has been awarded to start May 4 or May 11. Roof replacement has a verbal commitment. These are projects for the next three or four months. Paul is cleaning out the garages. He has applied to the State of Illinois for a \$13,000 Non-Profit Security Grant program (for NFP churches, mosques, temples, etc.) that goes through FEMA. Dan added that there had been no further outgoing communications (calls or letters) on the Centennial Campaign, but posters are still visible. Dan has been asked by parishioners as to whom is making the decisions on the projects. Who is advising Fr. Kevin? Fr. Kevin responded that decisions are best made by consensus, and he has been meeting with the Centennial Campaign Committee. Dan added that a suggestion was made to establish a more formal Building and Grounds Committee under the Finance Council. Previously, it's been the Finance Council overseeing building and grounds. Dan will speak to Keith Detmer about it. John added that the Finance Council has been in discussion; they have looked at the project bids that have come in and prioritized the projects by what approval we have received from the Diocese.

**Monthly Fellowship Calendar:** The Knights of Columbus April 12 11am-5pm Chicken Dinner will be considered a fellowship activity.

**Lenten Speaker Series:** Jan reported the positive results of the evaluations for the first two speakers. Coming up are the Twelve-Step Program, Fr. Uribe on Different Stages of Life and Spirituality; and the last one is on Silence and Solitude. Attendance and fellowship have been good.

**Stations of the Cross:** Pastoral Council will present the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 13.

**Campus Security:** John and Angee are coordinating with the Troy Police and are putting together campus security procedures and training for ushers, including closing/locking doors and basic courtesies. Brenda added that ushers need to know where the AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) are located and how to use them. Security and safety procedures will be shared with parishioners through the Bulletin and pulpit announcements.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Pulse of the Parish:** Fr. Kevin thanked the Pastoral Council. He is happy to see us organized and he appreciates the efforts. John thanked Fr. Kevin for all he does for the parish as well.

Pray for safe travels of our two parishioners who left today for the opening of our sister parish in Guatemala.

There being no further business, Dan offered the closing Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 7:00pm, in St. Joseph's Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail Wolff, Recorder