

**ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 5, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:00pm.

Members present: Dan Jackson, Chairman, Paul Baumgartner, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Amanda Detmer, Jan Gremaud, Kelly Houston, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Tom Mines, Brenda Neumann, Amanda Dotzert

Members absent: Angee Clark-Hellon, Amanda Detmer, John Hopkins, Greg Schrage, Betsy Weinel, Gail Wolff

Opening Prayer was offered by Jan Gremaud.

No corrections to the September Minutes. Motion was made by Kelly Houston and seconded by Paul Baumgartner to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin reported on the status of ARISE this season. The Ministry Fair resulted in a volunteer fluent in Spanish for the Guatemala efforts. He has been in contact with Fr. Jorge and requested a Processional cross and candles. A St. James parishioner is working on that. We are finalizing lunch plans after Mass on the Grass October 6. Capital Campaign will be discussed during a meeting with Finance committee on September 24. Fr. Kevin is working on getting music for the 4:00pm Mass and has asked Nick Worman, who plays at the St. James 5:30pm Mass, to also consider 4:00pm at St. Jerome.

Written Reports: Kelly Houston had volunteers for piano players. Paul had a question about repairs included in Betsy's report. Brenda mentioned rust on the poles that was addressed. Amanda Dotzert then distributed the corrected July financial report and responded to questions from the Council on the various line items, profit and loss amounts, tithe and budget. The financial report will be published in the September 8 Bulletin. There were no other questions for Amanda.

Old Business

Parish Census: No further progress since last month. Need responses from two follow-up callers.

August 17-18 Ministry Fair: Tom Mines asked about attendance. The usual people attended. Dan suggested the Fair be held on the patio outside the Narthex or at Mass on the Grass so everyone will pass by the Fair. Dan suggested that the ministry brochure be distributed prior to the Fair so people will have an idea of what ministries are offered. Plus, provide articles describing the various ministries in the Bulletin and Friday email. Brenda did receive several inquiries and sign-ups. This Ministry Fair was a success, and the Council can keep improving it. Tom suggested to maybe change the date to around Christmas when people feel more charitable. The Council discussed the pros and cons of brief pulpit talks or announcements from the altar about an upcoming Ministry Fair before or after Mass.

Liturgist/Music Director Search: Father Kevin had previously covered this. Steve is working out well.

Centennial Campaign and 7 Pillars Responsibilities (Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Stewardship, Leadership): For these two important projects, Dan addressed the need to have the entire Council present to solidify what the Council plans to work on and the budget necessary. Finance Committee wants to finalize at the September 24 meeting. At this point, it will be a guess on our part. Jan suggested and Dan agreed that we need to do a follow-up to the ARISE program to increase evangelization from our parishioners, a possibility is a program from the Catherine of Sienna Institute; "And Gifted" is one of them. Something is needed to attract and keep young families involved (like the old Mothers' Circle that met once a month). Every parishioner discerns their own spiritual gift and how they are using it. The problem is we need to put a dollar amount on it. Katie Price could possibly help us.

2024-25 Pastoral Council Goals: Dan stated that it might be best to ask Council members to come up with some ideas of goals. Gail had suggested an annual evening town hall meeting where parishioners can ask questions, make suggestions, express concerns, etc.; and she also proposed leadership training for Pastoral Council members. One of Dan's goals is to reestablish the Hospitality Committee to be welcoming to new and existing parishioners. There needs to be a head usher on the Hospitality Committee. These are the first faces people see as they walk in the door. A lengthy discussion followed about the various responsibilities of ushers to be more welcoming and making sure usher and server positions are covered before each Mass. Greeters need to be more welcoming. Perhaps train ushers to be genuine and enthusiastic when greeting parishioners. Families could take turns greeting parishioners.

Fr. Kevin added that the second reading this week is a passage from James on how you treat people when they come into the Christian gathering. These concerns can be addressed. We are not just a random assortment of people. If we are not a community, we got to keep going on the way towards that. Fr. Kevin said he will work that in.

Dan concluded that Pastoral Council members are to think about Pastoral Council goals for this fiscal year and email them to him. Dan will assemble them, and they will be presented anonymously. Also, email on which of the 7 Pillars Council members would like to work. There are 9 Council members and 7 Pillars, so there will be some overlap.

Pulse of the Parish: Dan asked for any comments/concerns we've heard from the parish in the past month. Jan suggested that the St. Michael Prayer be said after Mass at St. Jerome like other parishes do. St. James does it. What is the purpose? Due to its negative connotations and reference to exorcism, especially after a beautiful Mass, Fr. Kevin and Sr. Linda Mary felt this prayer could be prayed by any individuals who feel the need and choose to do so.

There being no further business, the closing Prayer was offered by Jan Gremaud; and the meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Next meeting scheduled Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder