

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL AUGUST 7, 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, Tom Mines, Brenda Neumann, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff

Members absent: Fr. Kevin Laughery, Betsy Weinell

Opening Prayer was offered by Joel Petry.

No additions or corrections to the July, 2025, 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: No report as Fr. Kevin had another commitment.

Written Monthly Reports: No questions on the monthly reports submitted for Admin Office Support, Youth Ministry, St. John Neumann. Sister Linda Mary announced that she will be retiring September 2026. She mentioned the confirmation-prep Spirit Event coming up August 23 and is asking for help along with Brenda and Fr. Kevin.

Old Business

Centennial Campaign: Jan reported that a training meeting for volunteers will be coming up at 6:30pm, September 3, in St. Joseph's Hall. Jim Sagovac will be attending the August 14 St. Ann's meeting to ask for volunteers. Fr. Kevin has approved the content for the letters that will go out the end of August. Currently, there are 491 parish families. Reception dates are being determined for Ray to come and talk to parishioners. Fr. Kevin will give pulpit talks during the Campaign.

Monthly Fellowship Calendar: A new calendar for 2025-26 is being developed. Dan proposed that a budget be set to reimburse for items (cookies, ice cream, bingo prizes, pot luck main dishes, etc.) purchased for parish fellowship activities. Bingo is being well received as well as Trunk or Treat coming up in October. Council members are encouraged to participate.

Mass on the Grass Weekend: Plans are underway. Brenda and Paul are in charge of the logistics, and Brenda has four volunteers leading the activities for Sunday, September 28. Fried chicken and hot dogs will be provided. Parishioners attending 4:00pm Saturday Mass will be encouraged to come back at 11:30am on Sunday to have lunch and stay for Bingo.

Pastoral Council Training: Dan contacted Katie Price about our 7:00pm, Tuesday, September 30 date for church leadership training; and that works for her. Finance Council and St. James Councils will be invited as well.

New Business

Amendment to the Bylaws: It was suggested to Dan that Lucy Ehrhardt would be a good addition to Pastoral Council and amend the Bylaws to add her. Lucy could oversee parish Hospitality including monthly fellowship activities, funeral lunches, etc. After discussion, it was determined that no amendment is necessary since Paul is now an employee in charge of Maintenance and is no longer a voting member of the Council. Adding Lucy keeps the number of Pastoral Council voting members to nine.

Pulse of the Parish: No comments. Dan handed out a *New York Times* email article on “Digital Missionaries” where the church and the Pope are embracing digital influencers. He indicated that one of our objectives going into the Centennial Campaign is to entice and invite young people (Generation Z: Ages 14-28) to join our parish. This may be the way to reach them. Joel mentioned that he teaches a Social Media and Marketing class and is familiar with this issue. Jan added that the brothers Fr. Christopher Trummer (St. Boniface) and Fr. Michael Trummer, who are younger priests, are doing a podcast. This is something to think about regarding staffing and social media talent going forward.

Paul discussed his schedule and the maintenance items he is working on—replacing/reinforcing restroom mirrors, HVAC maintenance, lighting improvement, evaluating the commercial stove, etc. His results are being noticed and appreciated.

Tom inquired about the status of Fr. McGivney as a resource to St. Jerome. Explain how McGivney fits into our mission and how we fit into McGivney’s mission. Dan has reached out to the new school board member and has not yet had a response.

There being no further business, Joel offered the closing Prayer. An additional prayer was said for the two priests who Fr. Kevin had mentioned are experiencing troubles. The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder