

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 4, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman John Hopkins at 7:03pm.

Members present: Vice Chairman John Hopkins, Paul Baumgartner, Lucy Ehrhardt, Angee Clark-Hellon, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Jan Gremaud, Fr. Kevin Laughery, Brenda Neumann, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff

Members absent: Chairman Dan Jackson, Kelly Houston, Tom Mines, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Gail Wolff.

No additions or corrections to the August 7, 2025, Minutes. Motion was made by Angee Clark-Hellon and seconded by Joel Petry to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin provided information from the Presbyteral Council and Notes from the Diocese regarding arranging weekend Masses. The sentiment around the Diocese is that pastors are not eager to make changes and drop Masses and are comfortable with the status quo. Fr. Kevin needs to study more closely the documents he received. Parish staffs are inundated with IT issues involving phishing and fraudulent activity appearing in emails. There will be limited daily Masses coming up as Fr. Kevin will be at meetings held out of the area—the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Chicago and the Annual Priest Convocation in Florissant. He commented on the Centennial Campaign training meeting that Ray Coogan from OSV had conducted the previous evening. Fr. Kevin added that our sister parish in Guatemala is dedicating their new church this weekend. Third graders will be at the Cathedral in Springfield on Saturday to receive their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Written Monthly Reports: No questions on the monthly reports submitted for Youth Ministry, Faith Formation, St. John Neumann, and Maintenance Technician. John and Angee mentioned and appreciated all the projects Paul has already completed as Maintenance Technician. The Council discussed possible solutions to the various maintenance challenges around the property.

Old Business

Centennial Campaign: John reported that 16 people met at 6:30pm on September 3. Ray Coogan talked to the volunteers present about the whole campaign process both for handing out information and personal visits. Twenty-two packets went out to specified people and volunteers. There will be three receptions in September for 140 parishioners and, three Sundays of pulpit talks in October geared toward everyone whether they have or not already given, turned in their pledge cards, or whether they made a recommended donation pledge higher or lower. This is a recommended pledge amount only. Jan asked Fr. Kevin to clarify donation versus contribution. He replied, “A donation is to something outside of you. A contribution is what is expected of you as a member of this community.” Sr. Linda Mary added that the three receptions will be: Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30pm; Thursday, September 25 at noon and 6:30pm. Jan suggested that the Campaign prayer written by Fr. Kevin that is included in the pledge packet be said before or after every Mass. Fr. Kevin responded that the prayer could be included with the Intercessions. Jan asked about when the pledge money can be used for parish projects. Fr. Kevin will clarify that.

Monthly Fellowship Calendar: A new 2025-26 Pastoral Council fellowship activity calendar and budget were discussed--what we need to purchase versus what can be donated. Jan added that the date listed for the 2026 Rummage Sale may change as the committee has not yet met. A lengthy discussion followed on coordinating dates and efforts with other organizations and ministries. All future fellowship activity dates need to be confirmed to avoid overlap with other events. The Rosary Walk on September 27 will begin at 8:00am at the St. Joseph statue. At the same time, Sharon Meloche will lead the rosary in St. Joseph Hall for those who don't wish to walk uptown.

Old Business (continued)

Mass on the Grass Weekend: Brenda reported that things are well underway. Mailers have been prepared and are ready to go out. Fr. Kevin will receive some information to put in "More Good News" for this weekend, and it's in the bulletin. She is getting prices on fried chicken. John asked about hot dogs, hamburger, buns and the number needed. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be cooked the day before and served in roasters for lunch the next day. Music has been selected, worship aids will be printed for the congregation and the sound system will be set up.

Pastoral Council Training: Katie Price will be here Tuesday, September 30, the Feast of St. Jerome. Fr. Kevin will have a 6:00pm Mass instead of the usual 8:00am Mass with the training after 6:00pm Mass in St. Joseph's Hall. Finance Council, St. James Councils and non-voting members of the Pastoral Council are invited as well.

Engaging the Community Through Social Media: Joel offered a theme for this project—"Spiritual Friendship"—to fit the various parish groups, such as Youth Group having a presence on TikTok. Angee felt Joel would be a good leader of this as he has family members that fit the demographic. Various social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok), security issues and other concerns were considered for this ministry. Brenda cautioned that controls need to be in place for the various age groups involved.

Computer Tech Support: Sister Linda Mary added that she is having difficulty with her desk top computer. Brenda mentioned that St. Jerome has retained DayCom to provide our tech support. They need to look into the problems Sister Linda Mary is having and get them resolved.

New Business

Welcome, Lucy Ehrhardt: John and the Parish Council members welcomed Lucy Ehrhardt as a new member to be participating in the Community Pillar with Angee and Gail. Lucy responded that she willing to learn and help the best she can. Since she is new, Lucy said she is relying on the Council to teach and guide her. She added, "Just tell me what to do, and I'll do it!"

St. Jerome Signage on the Church: Jan had been approached by a parishioner regarding the lack of signage or a cross on the exterior of St. Jerome Church. There are two Jerusalem crosses on the east side of the church facing the circle drive, but they are built into the brickwork and difficult to notice. Painting them may not be an option.

Trivia Night and Mardi Gras: Brenda clarified that these events are parish-wide activities, not limited to the Youth Group. The Youth Group helps, but these events are for all St. Jerome parish families.

Other Business

Long Range Strategic Planning: John asked the Pastoral Council members to re-read the document that had been prepared and voted upon several years ago. This can be a future meeting action item

There being no further business, Gail offered the closing Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 7:00pm, Wayland office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder