

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Jackson at 7:07pm.

Members present: Chairman Dan Jackson, Vice Chairman John Hopkins, Paul Baumgartner, Lucy Ehrhardt, Jan Gremaud, Tom Mines, Fr. Kevin Laughery

Members absent: Angee Clark-Hellon, Kelly Houston, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff, Sr. Linda Mary De Lonais, Brenda Neumann, Betsy Weinell,

Opening Prayer was offered by Jan Gremaud.

No additions or corrections to the November 6, 2025, Minutes. Motion was made by John Hopkins and seconded by Jan Gremaud to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Fr. Kevin mentioned the untimely deaths of two active Diocesan priests, Fr. Darin Zehnle (47) of Quincy and Fr. Joe Ring (66) of Jacksonville. Fr. Zehnle had been a colleague of Fr. Kevin's in the Tribunal, and Fr. Kevin has been asked to take over a portion of the Tribunal work as Judicial Vicar to assist the five remaining judges.

Regarding the end-of-June trip to our sister parishes in Guatemala, several parishioners have volunteered to go—Erin Stark, Jessica Moore and her son.

Fr. Kevin has been focused on the Centennial Campaign with pledges as of December 4 being within \$18,000 of goal, and additional new pledges are coming in.

Now that the contract has been signed, parishioners will be needed to manage the Evangelical Catholic development program (funded by the Centennial Campaign), which will train parishioners to evangelize to others interested in or are asking questions about the Catholic faith. [Following the initial issue of the Minutes, Jan clarified that Evangelical Catholic will need to be led by a core group of individuals. For more detailed information about Evangelical Catholic, go to: "Our Approach – The Evangelical Catholic" at <https://evangelicalcatholic.org/about/> and "Reach More – The Evangelical Catholic" at <https://evangelicalcatholic.org/reachmore/>]

Written Monthly Reports: No questions on the monthly reports submitted for Youth Ministry, Administrative Office and Faith Formation.

With Sister Linda Mary's retirement date now moved up to May rather than the end of September as originally announced, Fr. Kevin is considering various ways to cover her job duties. Also, someone will need to be appointed to coordinate the funerals with visitations/vigils now to be held the evening before the funeral Mass. Various options were discussed.

Old Business

Centennial Campaign: Bids are being received for projects to replace the roof and skylight as well as adding some sealing work. Paul confirmed that the folding walls in St. Joseph's Hall may be repaired rather than doing a total replacement, saving considerable cost. Rather than painting the folding walls, new wallcovering may be a better solution. Bids look good for the ceiling tile replacement and additional painting.

Old Business (continued)

Monthly Fellowship Calendar: Jan reminded the Council that everything going onto the calendar must be approved through Jodi beforehand. Planners need to go directly to Jodi as project ideas come up. Dan mentioned the low attendance at the recent potluck and bingo. He had been told by a parishioner (who would normally attend this type of activity) that with school the next day, 4:00pm Sunday may not be the best choice. We may want to schedule bingo with lunch right after 10:30am Mass, or Saturday evening after 4:00pm Mass.

Campus Security: Paul reported that three contractors came out to assess our situation, with one bid coming in so far from a company that provides security systems to several area churches. This company can provide coordination with our fire alarm and smoke detector systems as well. Paul is meeting with the representative on December 17. Dan brought up the need for procedures, especially the need to keep doors locked. The doorbell has been repaired. There have been two recent incidents of men walking into St. Joseph's Hall—one looking for the office when a prayer group was in session and one, looking for food, walking into the recent St. Ann's Christmas Party. (Food was provided to him.) The church doors should be locked during Mass with someone monitoring the doors. Specific procedure and training options were discussed. A new lock has been installed on the clothing donation bin in the parking to prevent people from spending the night inside the bin.

Calling on Parishioners for Prayers: Dan met with the Faith Sharing group and there is a subset of those ladies who are willing to make calls. They were concerned about waiting until after the holidays and when the Centennial Campaign is finished so that their calls would be not confused with any other calls following up on the Campaign. (The Centennial Campaign may be wrapped up by the end of the year.) Jan suggested that the faith group develop a script with bullet points to help those making the calls to be able to cover various scenarios, questions and responses. The initial call would be, "Is there anything you need St. Jerome's parish to pray for?" Prayer requests could be handled by individuals, the Prayer Chain, included at the Offertory during Mass or included in the Bulletin.

Jan brought up the Lenten Speaker Series. The Faith Sharing group, Lorraine and Jan are going to initiate that for Lent. Dan added a suggestion for holding simple suppers before these sessions. Further discussion needed.

Generic Offertory Envelopes: Fr. Kevin will be discussing with staff how to initiate a multi-purpose envelope for the offertory basket that provides for prayers, petitions, contributions and other forms of stewardship.

Pastoral Council Name Badges: John ordered the name badges and they have been mailed. John will distribute.

New Business

Jan brought up the problems with the AT&T wi-fi signal's dropping in St. Joseph's Hall when Jan is running various ARISE group programs. John has experienced similar problems when live-streaming Masses. The church building uses AT&T and the office uses Charter. Dan explained there may be extra cost to run Charter to St. Joseph's Hall. Amanda will look into extending Charter Business into the church building for improved reliability.

There being no further business, Jan offered the closing Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder