

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL JULY 2, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

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

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

Members absent: Angee Clark-Hellon, Joel Petry, Brenda Neumann, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Lucy Ehrhardt.

A 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 reported that he and Brenda continue to work on the Core Leadership Team for Evangelical Catholic. He is very grateful for the development of the various jobs they will offer people. It looks very good to him.

Written Monthly Reports: No questions on monthly reports submitted.

Old Business

Centennial Campaign – Capital Projects: Paul reported that the church roof replacement has been completed, both the flat section and the angled sections. Skylight replacement is scheduled for August. Hall floor is 90% completed. The entryway work has not started. Moveable walls are completely rebuilt, coated with a new covering; marked; and they move very easily. Paul is providing instructions on how the walls are to be moved and replaced into their original spots. Hall ceiling tiles have been replaced. Work on replacing the ceiling HVAC vents will start next week. The hall, restrooms and kitchen floors will be polished when they are completely redone. The new church air conditioner has been approved and expected installation is within the next month, with anticipating a week to install. The 40-year-old hall air conditioner was repaired last Monday. The new control system provides a lot more trouble-shooting options. Fr. Kevin asked about when the hall will again be available for use. Paul replied that with the current shortage of workers with the three different contractors due to vacations, he cannot provide a completion date. Contractors cannot work Vacation Bible School the week of July 19-23. Fr. Kevin added that the olive wood religious items sale would also be on the July 25-26 weekend. Paul is very pleased with the work that has been done and with the contractors. Dan asked about getting the permanent walls painted as it was suggested that some of the rummage sale proceeds be used for this. Discussion followed. Jan is working on getting bids for the wall painting and also the cost of adding electricity out to the Main Street sign and to the Mary grotto. The sign by the driveway may need a solar panel due to the cost of bringing electricity under the driveway to that location.

Monthly Fellowship Calendar: Gail distributed draft copies of a possible fellowship calendar for fiscal 2026-27, coordinating with other parish events, such as the KofC Chicken Dinners on October 18, 2026 and April 4, 2027. Fr. Kevin added the dates March 27 for Easter Vigil and March 28 for Easter. We will have at least one person being baptized during Easter Vigil. Kelly reported St. Jerome Family Trivia Night is Sunday, January 17 (MLK Weekend when kids are off school on MLK Day, Monday). Paul said that March 13 is KofC Trivia Night at SJN.

Old Business (Continued)

Campus Security: John is needing Pastoral Council input. Prior to the next meeting, he will forward to the members what policies and procedures he has already compiled for any suggestions and additions.

Pastoral Council Goals: Dan sent out the current goals: Grow the membership at St. Jerome. Increase attendance at the weekend Masses. Increase the number of members who participate in parish ministries. Some actions to achieve these have been accomplished; some are in progress; some have not yet been achieved. These can be addressed during Stewardship Weekend. Jan reminded the group that people need to be asked personally. Dan added that the goals should become an ongoing discussion.

Stewardship Weekend: Dan sent out a description draft of the ministries that we serve in the parish, using the information from past directories (at-Mass ministries and outside ministries). After checking with Brenda about calendars, we could do a Stewardship Weekend September 20 and 21. The only thing on the calendar for that weekend is 'cardboard city,' and that should not be a problem. Dan asked for feedback. Kelly suggested adding the St. John Neumann School Board ministry (3-4 from each parish) and that a volunteer does not have to be a parent. He suggests sending out a letter to the parish families, telling them we are having a Stewardship Weekend for Time and Talent, thanking them for their generosity with their Treasure but that stewardship is a three-legged stool. Along with a description of all the ministries will be a sign-up page listing the ministries and asking for parish response on which ministries on which they would like to volunteer and on which ministries they already volunteer. This page will also ask them to list their various talents, i.e., general labor, carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, landscaping, web/internet, cooking, rummage sale help, marketing communications, etc. Responses could be placed in the collection basket. Fr. Kevin would like to see development of grief support and would be willing to start with a nucleus of people who are drawn to be a presence to people experiencing grief. A discussion followed on various options of presenting this stewardship project.

New Business

2026-2027 Meeting Schedule: Discussed earlier

Pulse of the Parish: Jan brought up and a discussion followed regarding concern about the 'bare-bones' one-page worship aids that we are now using for funerals. The Council discussed licensing requirements and procedures for including the music played and hymns sung in the worship aids. (Previous booklets including the funeral music and other information had been created by Steve Stack.) Including the music and additional information would be helpful to non-Catholics attending funeral Masses. Erin Stark sent Jan a picture from Guatemala where the priest was wearing one of the stoles that Lisa Jackson had donated. The candle lighter/snuffer was very well received as their candles are up high on the window ledges. It was the best trip Erin has had to Guatemala. Jan had a comment from a parishioner asking if announcements and welcome of new parishioners can be read before Mass. Fr. Kevin responded that general instruction in the Roman Missal states that after Mass is the time to do these announcements. John suggested that these questions and answers be included in the Friday email newsletter to create more transparency and stimulate more questions. Gail read a note from St. Ann's CCW thanking Pastoral Council for all the things they do and the really nice way they do them, especially the treats after Mass.

There being no further business, Lucy offered the closing Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 7:00pm, St. Joseph's Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder