

ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman John Hopkins at 7:00pm.

Members present: Vice Chairman John Hopkins, Lucy Ehrhardt, Jan Gremaud, Tom Mines, Joel Petry, Gail Wolff, Paul Baumgartner, Brenda Neumann, Fr. Kevin Laughery

Members absent: Angee Clark-Hellon, Kelly Houston, Chairman Dan Jackson, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by Jan.

A motion was made by Joel Petry and seconded by Tom Mines to accept the Minutes as presented; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Monthly Reports

Pastor: Regarding an Evangelical Catholic update which is listed under Old Business—Centennial Campaign, Fr. Kevin reported that the first meeting of the core team involving Joel, Tom, Brenda, Jan, other parishioners and Fr. Kevin was held last night. Going forward, the members of the core team are undergoing a spirituality process helping them to become more literate in talking about their faith and to be able to pray spontaneously without a text. In the past three days, Brenda and I interviewed two more people who are interested in becoming Catholic and will be going through OCIA. At the recent 10:30 Mass, Gavin Young was Baptized and received into the Church. We are staying busy with OCIA. They had the spirit event, the last preparation we offer for our third graders going to the Springfield Cathedral on the 12th for First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Written Monthly Reports: No questions on monthly reports submitted for Youth/Faith Formation, St. John Neumann and Administrative Office.

Old Business

Stewardship Weekend: Parishioners are receiving their mailed Stewardship forms to be completed and returned at the September 19-20 weekend Masses. John asked for volunteers to help tabulate the results. John will coordinate with Jodi about the collection process when forms are dropped off at the office.

Centennial Campaign – Capital Projects: Paul reported that the church air conditioner will be replaced involving three contractors starting on September 15, which coordinates with church and PFF schedules. Skylight replacement will start sometime in September. Electricity has been run to the Main Street sign in front of church and also to the Mary Grotto. Both are now lit.

Old Business (Continued)

Centennial Campaign – Evangelical Catholic: Previously covered by Fr. Kevin. Tom mentioned that this first meeting went very well and the conversation was good.

Monthly Fellowship Calendar: Gail pointed out on the August 8 latest version of the calendar that we are awaiting plans for a possible St. Joseph's Hall Rededication on Sunday, November 22. For 2027, a few items are still pending as well.

Campus Security: John and Dan prepared and sent documents on "Safety and Security Measures" and "Safety and Security Action Items" to Pastoral Council members for comment. After the documents are finalized, implementation dates will be pending regarding training ushers and greeters until the church doors are replaced or are outfitted with hardware allowing people on the inside to exit while still locked from the outside. However, this depends on the manufacturer of the doors. Paul reported, based on information from various locksmiths, that the church doors are obsolete. Replacing them would be very expensive. In the meantime, we could have two ushers in the narthex during Mass to monitor unlocked doors or to open locked doors for late arrivals and watch for anyone who may not belong there. We are in the process of checking with other churches on what procedures they have in place.

Pastoral Council talked about parents' needing to accompany younger children (under 10) to the restroom during Mass as well as to and from PFF classrooms. A discussion of lock options followed as well as shelter-in-place plans and evacuation procedures in case of a fire. Joel asked how all this would be communicated to the parish. The goal is to keep our church family safe and informed.

Pastoral Council Goals: Further discussion tabled until the October 1 meeting.

New Business

Pulse of the Parish: No further discussion.

There being no further business, Jan offered the closing Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 7:00pm, St. Joseph's Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder