ST. JEROME PASTORAL COUNCIL
OCTOBER 1, 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, Angee Clark-Hellon, Kelly Houston, Tom Mines, Gail Wolff, Paul Baumgartner, Brenda Neumann, Fr. Kevin Laughery

Members absent: Joel Petry, Betsy Weinel

Opening Prayer was offered by John.

A 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: Fr. Kevin gratefully reported on the successful fundraiser to purchase a vehicle for our sister parish San Antonio Maria Claret, Rio Dulce in Izabal, Guatemala. Fr. Kevin will rectify the fact that there is no monthly collection opportunity or envelope to help our sister parish. He is thankful to our parish for so many people's eagerness to participate so shortly after the Capital Campaign solicitation. Fr. Kevin attended the annual priests' convocation which ended with the beatification of Fulton Sheen, which he was happy to have attended. Meetings continue with the core group of the Evangelical Catholic initiative, and Fr. Kevin is finding this a real opportunity for growth and to discover the love that is within us, learning how to express that love and to build people up as a result.

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

Old Business

Stewardship Weekend: Dan stated that 37 stewardship responses were submitted, and he is compiling the results. John added that a request for completed forms is in the latest bulletin. Dan requested that someone at each Mass have stewardship forms available and remind parishioners to complete and to place them in the collection baskets. Angee volunteered and Brenda offered to ask the ushers to help out. A discussion followed on the current results and how to get more responses.

Centennial Campaign – Capital Projects: Paul reported that the church air conditioner was completely replace in two weeks. The five contractors involved did a really good job. The church skylight installation date has not been determined. The only manufacturer who can complete this job and who installed the original skylights is in Kansas. A deposit has been made to confirm the project. The recoated, adjusted, and repaired hall and classroom rebuilt walls were installed yesterday by Paul and Bill Bulva and look very good. Classrooms are available for PSR this weekend. A new antenna was put up for the fire alarm system and the radio signal is checked every night by the installer. We have complete fire protection. Wall painting is scheduled for October 12. Fr. Kevin added that Sunday is the 39th anniversary of the dedication of the church. Discussion followed about the Eagle Scouts' building a permanent platform for future outdoor Masses.

Old Business (Continued)

Monthly Fellowship Calendar: Missing items were added for 2026 and 2027. Sunday's 10:30am Mass in the Grass was well attended with 170 counted for Mass and 140 for lunch. There were 12 people for bingo after lunch. John reported that several parishioners mentioned to him that they really appreciated having Mass in the Grass on church grounds rather than at the park, with all its distractions. Dan added that having it on church property makes a better look for people driving by. How can we get more people to stay after lunch? More activities for the kids? A discussion followed. Dan suggested that for future outdoor Masses we close the driveway as people are using it as a sidewalk to get from their cars down to Mass at the same time cars are driving in. It was suggested that perhaps Mass in the Grass could be offered in both spring and fall. Paul added that the driveway is starting to fail and that he has placed some reflective driveway markers on it. Fr. Kevin said that the driveway may be removed completely at some point, since we have two other ways to get into the parking lot.

Campus Security: John reported that after discussing the security measures at the September meeting, we will require children under age 10 to be accompanied by a parent when going out to the restroom during Mass. Active shooter information will be included. Brenda mentioned that we have a new parishioner who is in security and is willing to assist us. John will reach out to other area churches to learn how they are addressing security. Ushers will need to be trained. Discussion followed.

Pastoral Council Goals: Dan stressed that we focus on three goals: (1) Grow the Membership at St. Jerome, (2) Increase Attendance at Weekend Masses, (3) Increase Ministry Participation. We can have activities to support those goals. Angee added that it is important to make everyone feel welcome and have someone to go to. John suggested we wait until all the responses are in from Stewardship Weekend and announce areas where the parish has a shortfall and where we need extra volunteers and at which Masses. Brenda stressed the importance of personally asking someone if they can help. Angee suggested perhaps building the welcoming committee efforts into the usher staff as they see Mass attendees each week and get to know them. Various concepts were discussed by the Council.

New Business

Pulse of the Parish: Gail received a letter from a parishioner requesting that the St. Michael the Archangel prayer be recited after each Mass. Fr. Kevin will not be doing this as prayer cards are available in the pews for those wishing to pray this prayer on their own. Lucy asked about generic giving envelopes after a woman who had been praying in church wanted to make a donation and handed some money to Lucy, who was an usher that day. Perhaps the office can make up some donation envelopes that could be available in the narthex.

There being no further business, John offered the closing Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Due to Fr. Kevin's schedule the first week in November, the next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 7:00pm, St. Joseph's Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Wolff, Recorder