

**St James
Pastoral Council Minutes
December 13, 2017**

Call to Order: Chair, Pat Buehler, called the meeting to order at: 7:01 pm.

Present: Terry Brecklin, Pat Buehler, Joe Gonzalez, Matt Hoffa Tim Khoury, Jill Lehnen, David Topp, John Walker.

Excused Absences: Ellie Allen, Ray Gross, Dcn. Sandy Sites, Paul Stevens.

Gospel Reading and Reflection

Matt Hoffa read Matthew 11:28-30. *Jesus said to the crowds: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light."* Matt provided a handout which guided us to examine the three verbs in this passage: come, take and learn. Come to Him. Take His yoke. Learn from Jesus. If we respond to Jesus in these ways, he will give us rest.

Approval of Minutes.

Motion to approve the November minutes was made by Joe Gonzalez; second by Jill Lehnen. Minutes approved.

Message from the Chair – Pat Buehler

- Save the Date! The council and staff day-long retreat will be on Saturday, February 10. Start time to be announced. Retreat will end before 4:30 mass. We will have our regular Pastoral Council Meeting in February, as well.
- New process for approval of minutes. Pat asked members to review and then approve minutes via email.
- Archdiocesan norms call for a minimum of six council meetings per year. At a future meeting, we will discuss the number of meetings we will hold in the summer.
- Fundraisers by outside groups. The council recommended the following guidelines:
 - Limit fundraisers from outside ministries to twice per calendar year.
 - Avoid fundraisers during Lent and Advent
 - Avoid scheduling fundraisers from outside groups during parish fundraisers or events

Finance Council Report – Joe Gonzalez, Finance Council Liaison

- The finance council is reviewing by-laws for the Legacy Fund. The by-law document will also undergo legal scrutiny. A letter explaining the purpose of the fund is also being drafted.
- Post cards about St. James are being sent to new residents in Sussex and the Town of Lisbon.
- An ad hoc committee is working on Strategic Planning. A document containing the actions steps for the 3-5-7-year Strategic Plan is under development.
- Council members asked Joe to provide an update on the current budget in January.

Discussion and Discernment of Focus

- Duplicate items were combined and the remaining items were discussed. One item was eliminated.
- Pat Buehler asked members to reflect and pray about the remaining items.
- Our Discussion and Discernment of Focus will continue at the January meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Brecklin
Secretary

Mission Statement

St. James is a vibrant, welcoming Catholic Community journeying towards the fullness of the Kingdom of God through worship, formation and service.