

St. James Pastoral Council Minutes

May 13, 2025

Members Present: Fr. John Hemsing, Scott Granicki, George Fox, Dennis Lentz, Dan Sawyer, Liz Pierce, Cheryl Romauld, Charles Demge, Rick Schaefer, Jim Salmo, Hayde Becker

Not present:

Topic	Follow-up
Call to Order 7:03 PM STJ Great Room Jim offered the opening prayer and reflection	
Approval of the April 8th, 2025 PC Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were distributed both in the meeting and prior to the meeting. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes, and Liz seconded the motion. With all in favor the minutes were approved. 	
Commission Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Concerns – Dan – Rice Bowl collections totaled \$1,384 - 75% will go to Catholic Relief Funds and the other 25% to St. Ben's Meal Program. Prayer and Worship – Dennis – Fr. extended a thank you to all coordinators and administrators who planned the Holy week, Easter Vigil and Easter services. The lighting in the church should have been dimmed, but the light panels were not working appropriately. We will have electricians come to identify the cause and options to correct this. Bill Lieven shared compelling reasons for why a grand piano would be appropriate for the church space. A parish in the area has a Baldwin 1925 9-foot grand piano they are offering for free; however, it requires about \$45,000 to fully refurbish it. Bill will submit a proposal to the Finance committee with possible options. Sunday mass schedule will shift to only a 9:00 AM mass through Labor Day. Bill reported the new format for the weekly orders of worship have been successful. Some parishioners miss the full choir at mass (cantor only). The choir is agreeable to singing at only one mass per weekend. If unable to have at least 10 choir members at mass the choir would take the summer off. Fr. proposed having a ministry day and gathering this fall. Art and Environment was asked to go through all plants and remove those that are not thriving. Stewardship – Liz – Parish information will be handed out at the Thrift Sale to target possible new members. It was noted that Welcome Wagon has reported the same number for the past three months. We also learned WW does not distribute cards to condos or apartments. Further investigation with WW is planned. The schedule of Fellowship Weekends for the summer is as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 7/8 - Parish Council July 5/6 – Finance Council August 2/3 – Christian Formation (prior to the start of the fall program) September 6/7 – Prayer and Worship <p>July 26/27 we will celebrate the feast of St James, with name tags and an ice cream social. We are looking at bringing back the Oner Percent Challenge program (daily prayer and scripture reflection). We are hoping to host the</p>	<p>4:30 Scott, Cheryl, Hayde - 9:00 Hayde, Dennis and George, Dennis, possibly Dan</p>

<p>archdiocesan workshop next spring entitled “Called and Gifted Workshop”. Thanks to Ellie and Jim Salmo who have been working on the parish website. The next step is to get an accurate update from each parish committee or organization. The goal is to make the website easier to read, more welcoming (adding photos) and serve as a resource for parishioners and non-parishioners alike. Fr. agreed to having deacon Lance and himself, present a session on Catholic Social Teaching.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christian Formation – Cheryl – Registration is open for all Christian Formation Classes. The Youth Minister position is still open. Vacation Bible School is July 28th through August 1st. ● Finance – Chuck/Rick – Discussion regarding a grand piano took up much of the Finance meeting. The water main connection project is complete. B&G is looking at the number of lights in church which are out. They are looking at a new panel and LED lights, estimated at \$30K. The installation of the hearing assist hardware and software, for the church, is expected to be completed by June 30th. From the April 30th financial statement – income is \$60K over budget (\$40K over in the envelope collections). Expenses are about \$50k under budget. Our 2025-2026 budget (balanced) must be submitted by May 30th, and is near complete. Mike Gast presented a plan of how he was taking care of the routine maintenance of the parish while he is on medical leave. He has a calendar prepared and a list of eight volunteers with dates and duties identified. We are comfortable with his proposal. Our fall back would be to use the cleaning service to fill in. ● Knights of Columbus - Scott – Eric wrote a nice letter thanking all the Knights who assisted during the Easter season. The Knights ushered at Holy Hill on May 4th. Upcoming activities include the Tootsie Roll drive is May 24/25, and helping with the Thrift Sale in June. 	
<p>Pastor’s Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fr. expressed his appreciation for the parishioners and all involved in Lent, Holy Week, Triduum and Easter, all who helped in any way to support him and the parish. The week after was also very busy, with funerals and First Communions. ● Confirmation – Between Good Shepard and St. James we have 60 youth being confirmed this Sunday May 18th. ● Feast of St. James July 26/27 – We will celebrate the feast of St James at each mass. It will be a “Name Tag Sunday”, along with ice cream sundaes with “jimmies”. ● Pastoral Council New Members – With the ending of terms for some members, Fr. asked all members to think of someone who might do well as a member, and invite them to a meeting. ● Summer Break – Both Finance and Pastoral Councils will not meet in June and July. Fr. would only call a meeting if something urgent arises. ● Youth Minister – Fr. shared we had someone close to filling the position, but backed out at the 11th hour. He has a meeting tomorrow with a new college graduate (Franciscan University of Steubenville, Oh). 	
<p>Open Discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission Statement – Liz shared feedback from a conference she attended, that mission statement should describe the parish values and how they identify. It should be short and concise, such that when asked you can easily 	<p>Send all statements to George to share before the August</p>

<p>recite it. She had sent out various mission statements of other churches in the Milwaukee area ahead of the meeting. St James current mission statement is - <i>St. James is a vibrant, welcoming, Catholic community, journeying towards the fullness of the kingdom of God, through worship, formation and service.</i> Cheryl had written three statements and shared the briefest one – <i>We are a welcoming Catholic community, walking with the apostle James, as we grow in our faith, love Christ with the gospel, and find purpose through worship, service and life-long formation.</i> Also discussed was the statement found on the front of each weekly bulletin(origin unknown) – <i>St James Parish is here to help all people experience meaning and purpose in life.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council member terms – Liz shared we will have two vacancies in the fall, and there are five that end in 2026. Liz indicated that Lori Holmes is very interested and Ben Filzen, a lector, who has been invited and is very interested. 	<p>meeting. Pray over and review each statement, to prepare to finalize one at our next meeting</p>
<p>August Meeting – Tuesday the 12th, 7:00 PM Father closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM</p>	