

St. James Pastoral Council Minutes

September 15, 2025

Members Present: Fr. John Hemsing, Scott Granicki, Hayde Becker, George Fox, Dennis Lentz, Dan Sawyer, Ben Filzen, Laurie Holmes, Rick Schaefer

Not present: Cheryl Romauld, Jim Salmo

Topic	Follow-up
<p>Call to Order 6:02 PM STJ Great Room Fr John offered the opening prayer and reflection</p>	
<p>Approval of the May 13th and August 12th, 2025 PC Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minutes were distributed for both May and August meetings in advance. Jim’s name needed correction in the August minutes. With no other corrections, Dan made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, Dennis seconded the motion. With all in favor the minutes were approved. ● Pastoral Council Commission – Fr. commissioned all council members and mentioned that members become familiar with the design and function of the council by reviewing the manual found on the archdiocese website at archmil.org. All members introduced themselves. Laurie Holmes and Ben Filzen were welcomed to the council. 	<p>PC members to review the manual for pastoral councils</p>
<p>Commission Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Concerns – Dan – At the next meeting HC will review a request from SOS to establish a monthly food collection via a bulletin notice. HC is looking for someone to take over the “Giving Tree” program. HC budget remains \$12,900. Human Trafficking had a Nights Out event in MF/Sussex. A Menomonee Falls 7th grade teacher would like information on Human Trafficking to incorporate into their curriculum. HC is set for the January 2026 Fellowship weekend. ● Prayer and Worship – Dennis – P&W continues to seek volunteers to serve as greeters, ushers, lectors, acolytes, and communion ministers. Bill Lieven is also trying to establish a children’s choir. ● Stewardship – Hayde – We are looking at alternatives to Welcome Wagons mail-in service, based on coverage limitations. Fr. John is going to talk with the cooperating churches of Sussex to consider a distribution of each member’s bulletin to new residents. Sunday 9/21 is National Back to Church Sunday. Will have this posted on the Parish sign, website, and face book. S.O.A.L. hosts Fellowship weekend October 4/5, which is also Name Tag Sunday. Bereavement hosts November 1/2. Holly Days preempts Fellowship Sunday in December. The Knight Pancake/Welcome breakfast is October 11/12. Registration weekend will be October 18/19. St. Mary’s has a recycling program for religious items each year, St James will participate this year, collecting in March next year, for pick up on 4/1/26. Laurie mentioned that a guided tour of the parish is being developed, to be offered in the future (likely in connection with the new member breakfast). Fr. suggested offering the tour to all parishioners after a mass, once established. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christian Formation – Ben – Family Faith Day, they are studying the Old Testament. These will be held 2 to 3 times per year: they are aimed at bringing the whole family in to share their faith. CF is still in need of catechists. Overall enrollment for the year is down as compared to last year; it is expected more will sign up. ● Finance – Rick – The year-end financial statement ending 6/30/25 was reviewed and approved, as submitted. Total Assets = \$6,721K (Cash \$344K and Fixed Assets \$6,377K). Total Liabilities = \$277K (archdiocesan assessment of \$207K and line-of-credit at \$74K). The balance sheet included \$238K in the Line of Credit and \$106K in the Catholic Communities Foundation account. Total income of \$1,500K (Offertory collections \$1,300K, and miscellaneous income of about \$400K). Expenses were \$1,300K. Net balance was a surplus of \$212K. Of note was the shift of \$238K from expenses to capital related to the water main installation. A quarterly check of \$52K from the LOAC was received, and moved into the Catholic Community Foundation fund. A payment of \$50K was approved to pay down the current balance on the Line of Credit (7.5% charge on open balances). Personnel – hired Youth Minister Maggie Reilley, and plan to continue with the contracted cleaning service. Next month Mike Groh will share the list of open maintenance projects with Finance and Pastoral Councils. 2025-2026 Budget – Income \$1,387K, Expenses \$1,347K for a net Income of \$40K. Expenses include a 3% salary increase for staff, about a 9% increase in health insurance, and a 6% archdiocesan assessment. Scott made a motion to approve the budget and financial statement for 2025-2026 as presented by the Finance Council. Dennis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved. ● Knights of Columbus - Scott – The Knights are questioning the length of time of the Sunday breakfast, as there is a large gap after the 9:00 AM mass. They also considered offering ham and rolls or something else. Another idea was breakfast/lunch/brunch and a football game. Scott encouraged all males to join the Knights. Hayde suggested the Knights need more press. 	
<p>Pastor's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building and Grounds – Mike Groh is working on the projects list. ● Parish Trustee – Fr. has nominated Frank Habib as Parish Trustee – Treasurer to replace Chuck Demge. To date no one else has expressed any interest. If no one comes forward, Frank will be appointed in 9/22. ● Parish Membership – The parish has reached a goal of over 1,600 families. ● Flood Damage – Fr. had directed inquiries for assistance for flood damage to St. Vincent De Paul. FEMA financial assistance is pending and may offer additional aid. The Church did experience some damage to carpets in the south east corner, and tiles in the basement totaling about \$6K. ● Tabernacle Location – Fr. is planning to move the tabernacle to the altar and eliminate the Eucharistic chapel. Timing would be the first week of Advent. The Eucharistic chapel would then become the Reconciliation chapel. 	
<p>Open Discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Charge to PC Members/Food for Thought – Scott challenged all members to consider two things 1) Are you successful or significant to the council? and 2) “If you don’t fight or sacrifice for the cause, the cause is the sacrifice.” So, whatever the cause is, whatever means something to you, go with it. Is your Catholic Faith worth fighting for? 	

October Meeting – Monday the 20th, 6:00 PM Father closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM	Secretary needed for this meeting