

St. James Pastoral Council Minutes

October 20, 2025

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

Not present: Cheryl Romauld, Jim Salmo, George Fox

Topic	Follow-up
<p>Call to Order 6:00 PM STJ Great Room Fr John offered the opening prayer and reflection</p>	
<p>Approval of the September minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were distributed September meeting in advance. Dan made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, Dennis seconded the motion. With all in favor the minutes were approved. 	<p>PC members to review the manual for pastoral councils</p>
<p>Commission Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Concerns – Dan – Tithing/ thank you were deferred for one month. Family was found to help with the giving tree. Dan confirmed the budget of \$12,900 for the year and confirmed that the \$900 can be used as needed for the commission. National Lights out in August were a big success with good discussions and packets passed out to those who showed interest in helping. Idea came up that committee members should wear name tags on welcome Sundays so they can be easily identified by the parishioners. Saint Bens is serving ~180 per day, St James supplies enough food to meet the needs. Anti-Trafficking – Sussex Program rolling along - still working towards getting into the Falls schools. Ben offered help into Sussex Hamilton schools. There is legislation presented to have a mandatory sentence of 10 years for trafficking and 15 years for trafficking a child. Community Education – passed out HEMAD cards to local businesses (Human trafficking Educators working with Men and boys to stand Against the Demand) – Follow ship planned for Queen of Apostles (Jan 16-17) St James (Jan 3-4), Good Shepherd pending. Looking at ½ retreat for the group Prayer and Worship – Fr. John extended thanks to all who coordinate and serve in various ministries. Moving the Tabernacle will take place the first weekend of Advent. Current Chapel will be used and reconciliation room and / or an extra room for weddings or other church services. Fr. John would like to change Reconciliation time to 3:30-4:00PM starting first week in advent. Deacon Lance is working on a plan/program for youth servers. Bill Lievens report – piano story how it came about by using “pastor discretion” funds. Children choir has 4 kids, hoping for 15-30, looking to have them sing in Advent and at the early Christmas eve Mass. Combined ushers and greeters into the ministry of hospitality. Full choir will stay in a rotation between the 3 masses. Bill is now heading up Art an Environment. Stewardship – Hayde – 2 Family’s out of 38 responded to the welcome breakfast. Those who were there were pleased to have breakfast with Fr. John and members of the committee. Welcome bags – contents were reviewed and suggestions were made to update. Looking for additional ways 	

<p>to distribute – OCIA, FOCUS couple, Baptism parents... No fellow ship in December as Holly Days is in its place, it will be a name tag weekend. Registration weekend 7 packets were taken. Arch Offerings - Called and Gifted workshop. Terry mentioned that we (St. James) need to market what we do, there is discussion in the Diocese of changing the name of Stewardship at local parishes. Intro workshop at St Dominics on Nov 8th. Baby Bottle Fund Raiser is ongoing with baskets placed at the doors for the return of the bottle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christian Formation – 200 or 286 families attend the first family faith day. Currently 463 students are enrolled in classes, a bit down from past years. 44 2nd grade and 58 11th grade students. A little concern about attendance with some students as some have only made 1 of 4 classes. So far CF collected \$33,885 if CF fees, still have \$35,345 open. 6 people are enrolled in OCIA. Soal 85 signed up so far, goal is et for 100. Mission trip for 13–20 year-olds, setup for July 10-18th in Waterloo, Iowa. Mathew 25 Kids finishing 5th grade – High School, June 22-26 1 week on daily local community service. St James has had 28 baptisms so far in 2025, looking for having these on the 3rd weekend of the month. ● Finance – . . Our financial situation is good at this point in year - We will get more LOA distributions this year, likely quarterly - Our line of credit interest rate is coming down and we will make a principal payment in October 2025 - Building projects from LOA funds were reviewed along with projects for the next five years and projects beyond five years. ● Knights of Columbus - Scott – Pancake breakfast was a success but the volume was down and after 10 became really slow. Looking to help with Lannon Trick or Treat, assist with SOAL lunch on 10/31. Looking to help with Fall cleanup in Nov. Next up is Holly Days breakfast 	
<p>Pastor’s Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fr. John expressed his thanks a gratitude to Check Demge for his service as a Parish Trustee over the past years. ● Fr. welcomed Frank Habib as Parish Trustee – Treasurer to replace Chuck Demge. ● Fr John will announce the steward letter at mass and have envelopes in the pews for donation. ● 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"> ● 	
<p>November Meeting – Tuesday the 18th, 6:00 PM Father closed the meeting with a prayer.</p>	<p>Secretary needed for this meeting</p>