

St. James Pastoral Council Minutes

November 18, 2025

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

Not present: Jim Salmo

Topic	Follow-up
<p>Call to Order 6:01 PM STJ Great Room Dan offered the opening prayer and reflection</p>	
<p>Approval of the October minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the October meeting were distributed in advance. Dan made a motion to approve the minutes, Rick 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 – Lindsey May and her family has taken over the Giving Tree. Human Concerns is responsible for the February fellowship. Extra tithing donations from two parishioners went to the Glafke family with this month’s Tithes. Under consideration are requests from two new organizations for the monthly tithes – Brown Homeless Sanctuary and McKinnon Pantries. Anti-Human Trafficking, communication has been good with the schools in Sussex but Menomonee Falls has been non-responsive. Several legislative bills are before the Wisconsin courts to establish minimum sentences for trafficking minimum of 10 years, and 15 years for trafficking a child. Sussex is working on developing 7th grade curriculum on human trafficking. HC is working with deacon Lance to establish a half-day retreat on Anti-Human Trafficking, for a future date. Prayer and Worship – Dennis – December 8th is Immaculate Conception, with masses at 8am and 6PM. Bill Lieven reported that ushers have been introduced to the MSP scheduler. Participation is voluntary, but is has been well received. Children’s choir started November 10th with 10 children. They will sing at the 4PM mass on Christmas Eve. Advent - Adult cantors are learning many news songs and are embracing them. During advent the Kyrie will be sung (after the penitential prayer). The advent wreath will be set up by the alter. On the first Sunday it will be blessed and lit after the universal prayers. Each Sunday thereafter the wreath will be lit before mass. The devotional prayer books have arrived. Christmas – The 4PM Christmas eve mass will have overflow in the community center and Fr. will serve Communion there first. He will then return to serve anyone wishing a gluten-free host. The other Christmas masses are 9PM Christmas eve, and 9AM Christmas day. Art and Environment, they are slowly transitioning to use of real plants. Stewardship – Hayde –We are considering cancelling Welcome Wagon, and trying another option, as it has viewed as not worth the cost. Registration weekend is tentatively scheduled for March 14/15. Hayde asked PC members if they would be willing to man the registration table if sign-ups were held more often. Liz and Hayde attended a Stewardship workshop. In short – 	<p>Reply to Hayde if willing to host new membership registration</p>

<p>Create a culture of welcome in the church, so we are going to invite new members to Fellowship each month, rather than wait for the quarterly pancake breakfast. Phone calls to new members will also be resurrected. Not everyone has been receiving the weekly parish e-mail, so a notice will be placed in the bulletin for anyone interested. Parishioner engagement – pray more for our parish and fellow parishioners. Ellie started a prayer corner before masses, inviting others to pray before mass, particularly for special needs. St James will host the next Stewardship committee workshop (after Easter). Fr. John has supported the idea of an annual evening of ministry appreciation. Recognizing people publicly, and holding a mini-workshop to help members enhance their ministry and engage more parishioners. Holly Days has all volunteer slots filled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christian Formation – Ben – Answering a question from the last meeting - How many families come from other parishes for formation? 38 in total - 12 St Mary’s; 9 St Dominic’s; 4 St Anthony’s; 4 St Charle; the balance from eight other parishes. Another 8 families are enrolled and are not members of any parish. We need teacher substitutes. One deterrent is the requirement to complete the 2.5-3 hour in-person Safeguarding training. The facility? The rooms are good sized for all classes., but the tables are old and wobbly, windows are not well insulated, and paint is peeling. The National Catholic Youth Conference is coming up and 8 students between St James and Good Shepherd, are attending. OCI has 7 active members; SOAL 110 are signed up. CF is considering offering Bible study again (Lent). A mission trip is set with Catholic Heart. We had four Baptisms recently, and think offering tours to the Baptism families would be a great option. Vacation Bible School will be the first week of August in 2026. ● Finance – Rick/Frank – Through September our revenue is up \$27K. We have been sitting on the Earned Retention Credit monies we had received, waiting to see if any needed to be returned. We waited 2 years and feel confident the credit is ours. The monies total \$87K. We took another \$13K from savings and invested the \$100K into our Catholic Community Foundation, bringing it to \$210K. 1,572 Stewardship letters were sent out. We paid \$25K on our line of credit bringing that balance down to \$47K. Personnel – Mike Gast will be out now through January, leaving us with only one custodian. We are looking for services to shovel sidewalks and entrance ways. 2026 performance review schedules were handed out last week. We are proposing a 3% raise in salaries for next year. The audio-visual project has been put on hold, due to immediate lighting needs. Many lights are inoperative. They are old and run “hot”. Cost is expected to be about \$40K, with quotes pending. A one-time quote of \$3500 for landscaping and maintenance of \$1,000 a month, we are looking for a second quote. They are looking at possible improvements in the rectory, focused on housing all office support personnel (currently some office in the school) and for better utilization of the space. Preliminary indication is there is enough square footage to accommodate all the staff. ● Knights of Columbus - Scott – Helped out Lannon with their Trick-or-Treat. Served the SOAL lunch on Halloween. Donated 25-50 coats – Coats for Kids. Will serve the pancake breakfast for Holly Days 12/6. 	<p>Requests will be made to the maintenance staff</p>
<p>Pastor’s Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stewardship – 2026 commitment cards were sent out. The annual report was also sent along with last month’s letter to parishioners. ● Feast of Christ the King is this Sunday, the end of the liturgical year. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanksgiving Day mass at 9AM. The collection that day goes to St Vincent DePaul. ● Advent – Wreath lighting will occur at the end of the prayers of the faithful, the Kyrie will be sung. ● Fr. is looking forward to Holly Days and the Christmas season. ● Tabernacle – The bracket for the Sanctuary Candle is installed in preparation for the move to the alter. This weekend will include an insert in the bulletin, explaining the change. 	
<p>Open Discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hayde and Scott attended the Deanery meeting last month. The meeting included what questions do you have for Archbishop Grob. Some newer priests were doing podcasts. Discussed, how do we bring young people back to church. There is too much red tape for volunteers, which limits involvement. ● Any ideas for changes here at St James? ● Ben noted that many of the activities for youth take place in Milwaukee, too far to drive/hard to get to. Having activities nearby would help keep youth engaged/active. ● Instagram – Fr was unaware we have an account, or who manages it. We need to check into this, and find out if and how it is used. ● If we wanted to have an event, can we? Any activity needs to be related to the church /parish and needs to be approved by Fr. ● Laurie discussed the book “The Return” – A book about getting people who were baptized to return to church. Possibly have this topic as a prayer in the spring. ● Did we ever decide on a Mission Statement? The current one is – “St James is a vibrant welcoming Catholic community, journeying towards the fullness of the kingdom of God, through worship formation and service” (2019). If more than one sentence - it is too long (30 words or less). Do we need to make any changes? On the bulletin is “St James parish is here to help all people experience meaning and purpose in life”. This could be a vision statement or a motto. ● Can we get our bulletin to the food pantry, to have it put into the food bags? Fr. will take this up as his next meeting with CCOS. 	<p>Review the mission statement. Prepare alternatives to review at the next meeting</p>
<p>December Meeting – Cancelled January Meeting – Monday the 19th 6:00 PM Father closed the meeting with a prayer.</p>	